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71ST YEAR NO. 38 PHONE 978-658-2346 SEPTEMBER 18, 2025 www.HomeNewsHere.com 16 PAGES

School Committee receives contract, building updates

By LIZZY HILL
News Correspondent

WILMINGTON — The Wilmington School Committee met on Wednesday, Sept. 10 to receive the superintendent's report and other updates on contracts, bank accounts, and buildings.

Chair Jesse Fennelly welcomed the new high school student representation joining the School Committee this year, Jackson Kylie.

Interim Superintendent David Thomson shared his report. He first welcomed all new staff and staff members who were moving into new positions this school year. He mentioned that Assistant Superintendent Christine Elliott organized a tremendous new staff orientation. He also highlighted staff who had been working in the district for over 25 years.

Next, he provided a summary of the school district opening. He stated that it was the smoothest opening he'd seen in his own 34 years in education. He added that transportation was working well despite how complicated it is, and despite a few hiccups they were running well on time.

School Committee member Stephen Turner noted that Transportation Director Lisa Faretra and her team had done a phenomenal job.

Lastly, Thomson discussed the memorandum of understanding and standard operating procedures between the school district and the Wilmington Police Department. He explained that this is the standard memorandum established by the district attorney, with a purpose of creating connection and serving as a resource to ensure that student needs are met and resources are used appropriately.

Dr. Mike Mercaldi asked to hear more about the benefits of having a school resource officer. Thomson suggested that the resource officer could provide resources, support new drivers, answer parent questions, and build the relationship between students and law enforcement.

He mentioned that Wilmington is lucky to have two school resource officers, and that he wanted to bring the School Committee some success stories.

David Ragsdale added that the memorandum of understanding states that the school will take the lead on handling issues, even if it may possibly become a police or legal matter, and the school resource officer steps in to lead only in a safety issue. Thomson agreed that the officer is not

SCHOOL | PAGE A7W

How we got here...
Wilmington Elementary Schools
All six elementary schools are of similar vintage 1950s/1960s and experience space deficiencies in their educational programs
Each school needs significant upgrades, including HVAC, plumbing, electrical, exterior windows and envelope, accessibility, etc.
Wildwood was determined to be in the most need of the six district elementary schools.
FOOTBALL
GIRLS ICE HOCKEY

▲ Wilmington Town Manager Eric Slagle gives the town's presentation on the plans for the new elementary school at Town Meeting on Saturday. (KMG Howlett photo)

Majority of residents vote in favor of funding a new elementary school

By LIZZY HILL
News Correspondent

WILMINGTON — On Saturday, Sept. 13 at Wilmington High School, Wilmington residents voted on two articles during the special Town Meeting: the first to hear a report on the proposed new elementary school, and the second to appropriate the funds for the school.

Under the first article, Town Manager Eric Slagle described how the town entered all six elementary schools of similar vintage into the Massachusetts School Building Authority program with the intention to consider school consolidation. Upon selecting the Wildwood School as the focus, the town was accepted into the program.

The Wildwood School Building Committee was formed and worked with designer in Dore + Whittier, OPM LeftField, and Fontaine Brothers as the construction manager. They considered 18 different options of addition, renovation, or new building with various grade consolidations which they eventually narrowed down to the pre-kindergarten through grade five school through community and stakeholder feedback.

Slagle explained that this option would eliminate transitions for the district's youngest students, solve capacity mismatch, meet accessibility requirements, allow space for STEM and differentiated instruction, right size classrooms, provide opportunity for staff to collaborate and move easily between grades, and provide workspace for service providers.

He emphasized that this would provide community benefits for CARES and gym needs and offer operational cost-savings in the long term. This is all while marginally raising the tax rate and earning grant money in the tens of millions of dollars.

Slagle detailed the design of the school with indoor and outdoor learning areas, an emergency access road, the 12,000 square foot gym, age-appropriate playgrounds, public only areas, accessible paths, and wings separated by grade.

He added that the town has a plan to complete the same consolidation with a new school on the west side of town in 2036 once the town's pension liability is paid off.

Slagle highlighted the total cost of the north side project at over $173 million, which the town proposed to pay for using $62 million from the MSBA, $15 million from free cash, and borrowing $96 million.

He provided an annual average tax rate increase around $422 and compared it to recent projects in other towns with average single-family annual increases as high as $1,100.

"This is the most fiscally and educationally responsible plan for the town," Slagle said.

Residents shared their opinions under the second article to appropriate the $173 million.

Joe Maselli commented that this school option was selected as the best solution through feedback, and that this will be the quickest and most cost-effective solution to repair three schools at once without disrupting learning.

He also described how the current North Intermediate and Woburn Street schools have challenges beyond repair that require fundamental upgrades.

Mark Dixon alerted residents to a program where seniors can volunteer for the town and receive up to $2,000 in tax relief, which he suggested could help them afford the tax increase with the borrowing.

One resident pointed out that this was a solid plan that would benefit educators and students in Wilmington for years, and the state funds would be extremely valuable.

Katie Callahan urged residents to vote yes in order to eliminate the daily hardships of hav-

MEETING | PAGE A8W

Special election results

Residents vote in favor of new school

By LIZZY HILL
News Correspondent

WILMINGTON — Wilmington held a special town election on Tuesday, Sept. 16 for residents to vote yes or no on the debt exclusion required to borrow the funds to pay for the proposed new pre-kindergarten through grade five elementary school. Polls were open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Voting took place at the Senior Center, at 130 Main St., for precincts one through three; and at the Town Hall, at 121 Glen Road, for precincts four through six.

In addition to the official in-person voting day, the town allowed vote by mail and absentee ballots. Absentee voting ended on Sept. 15 at 12 p.m., and mail-in ballots needed to

RESULTS | PAGE A8W

Voters at the new Senior Center (Joe Brown photo)

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Market Basket names Donald T. Mulligan interim CEO

WILMINGTON — According to a release issued Tuesday morning, the Market Basket Board of Directors has appointed longtime Chief Financial Officer Donald T. Mulligan as the grocery chain's interim Chief Executive Officer.

Mulligan, a Lowell native, has been with Market Basket for 42 years, most recently serving as CFO since 1999. He joined the company in 1983 after working at Sullivan Bille PC, a Tewksbury accounting firm, where he first became familiar with the grocery business while handling Market Basket's account. He was recruited by the late Telemachus "Mike" Demoulas.

The move comes as longtime CEO Arthur T. Demoulas was voted out

CEO | PAGE A7W

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Wilmington Library News:

Meet and greet with author Sy Montgomery on Sept. 25

Library Closure: The Wilmington Memorial Library will be closed:

- Thursday, Sept. 25, at 5 p.m. for WML's author event
- Friday, Sept. 26, 9 - 11 a.m. for Staff Development
- Saturday, Sept. 27, all day for Fall Fest.

Adult Programs

Drop-in Tech Help

Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2 p.m.
Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2 p.m.
Thursday, Sept. 25, 2 p.m.

Have a tech question that's been bugging you? Stop by Drop-in Tech Help.

Bookends Book Group

Monday, Sept. 22, 10 a.m.

This book group discusses contemporary books, both fiction and non-fiction, led by Library Associate Rebecca Lowe. Please stop by the library to pick up a copy of the featured book. This month's featured book is Of Time and Turtles by Sy Montgomery.

Needleworkers at Night

Monday, Sept. 22, 6 - 8 p.m.

These nighttime sessions are perfect for anyone who does any kind of needle craft but can't make it to Needleworkers during the day! Drop-in.

Hearing Aid Tips & Tricks

Monday, Sept. 22, 7 p.m.

This hybrid monthly meeting is a place for people to trade tips and tricks on how to get the most out of their hearing aids. Led by Technology Librarian Brad. You can attend in-person or virtually on Zoom.

Behind the Books: Sy Montgomery

Thursday, Sept. 25, 7:30 p.m.

Join author Sy Montgomery as she discusses her journey as an author! There will be a cash bar, book sales & an autograph signing. Sy Montgomery is best known for her books The Good, Good Pig and The Soul of an Octopus. The doors will open at 6:30 p.m.

This is a free event, open to ages 9+, and is located at the Wilmington Senior Center.

Youth Programs

Wilmington Community Playgroup

Monday, Sept. 22, 10 a.m.

Join Community Teamwork Family Resource Network for a community playgroup where we'll work on Early Literacy skills and much, much more! Ask CTI about any resources they can help provide for you and your family. Ages 0-6, siblings welcome

Back to School Bubble Tea Party

Tuesday, Sept. 23, 6 p.m.

Mix up your own bubble tea drinks to make the beginning of the school year a little sweeter! Grades 6-12

Early Release Teen Movie & Pizza

Wednesday, Sept. 24, 12 p.m.

Enjoy the early release day with pizza and a movie at WML!

Additional Information

Library Card Sign-up Month

▲ Only a few more days until Sy Montgomery is here in Wilmington! Held at the Senior Center on Thursday, Sept. 25 at 7:30 p.m., join us for an author talk, book sales and autograph signing. (Courtesy photo)

September is library card sign up month! Anyone that signs up for a library card in the month of September will get a tote bag, pen, sticker and welcome sheet.

Check Out Our Library of Things

Did you know Wilmington Memorial Library circulates more than just books? Check out our Adult, Teen and Youth Library of Things for fun and useful items to take home. Items include: colorblind glasses, hotspots, a GoPro, lawn games, a bike repair kit and much more! See what's available at *https://wilmlibrary.org/lot/*.

Book Store Next Door

Regular hours are back at The Book Store Next Door! The bookstore is open Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Museum Passes

The library has discounted passes to your favorite Massachusetts museums, attractions, and state parks. Find the full list by visiting *www.wilmlibrary.org/services/mp*.

WML In-Person & Virtual Programming

Registration is required for most in-person programs and is required for all virtual programs, as you will need to register in order to receive the Zoom link. You can register on our website at *www.wilmlibrary.org* or by calling (978) 658-2967.

Healey-Driscoll Administration auctions off Wilmington property for housing development

NEWTON — On Wednesday, the Healey-Driscoll Administration held its first auction of state-owned surplus property for housing development under Governor Healey's State Land for Homes initiative. The Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) put five underutilized and vacant state-owned parcels totaling almost 25 acres of land up for auction, performed by JJ Manning Auctioneers, on Sept. 10.

The auction resulted in the sale of all five parcels, generating a total of $2.9 million in revenue and ensuring that underutilized former state-owned land will be developed into housing in the towns of Wilmington, Westborough, Northborough, Templeton and Phillipston.

"This auction is an important milestone in our efforts to make state-owned land available for housing development, so we can get more reasonably priced homes built more quickly in this state," said Governor Maura Healey. "I'm proud of the team at DCAMM for the progress they have been making on our State Land for Homes Initiative, from putting vacant lots in Bridgewater and Bedford out to bid to hosting this successful auction, and I'm grateful for all of the developers who have stepped up to build on these lands."

Each parcel that was sold with the sale price is listed below. The buyers now have a 30 day due diligence period before closing.

- Lyman St., Westborough - A 5.8 acre parcel
  ▶ **Sold for $1.125 million**

- 0 Lyman St., Northborough - A 5.45 acre parcel
  ▶ **Sold for $550,000**

- Salem St., Wilmington - A 2.5 acre parcel
  ▶ **Sold for $625,000**

- 0 Royalston Road, Templeton – A 5.8 acre parcel
  ▶ **Sold for $265,000**

- 461 Freight Shed Road (Church Hill Road), Phillipston – A 4.6-acre parcel
  ▶ **Sold for $80,000**

"The parcels auctioned today represent our administration's commitment to getting more housing online faster and easier," said Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll. "We know that public-private partnerships like these are so important for ending our housing shortage and bringing down costs. I'm thankful to the developers at today's auction and we can't wait to see all the new homes coming to Massachusetts!"

More information about each parcel can be found on the State Land for Home page. Each parcel auctioned is deed-restricted, requiring development for housing purposes specifically. The parcels in Westborough, Wilmington and Northborough were sold with authority granted to DCAMM under the 2024 Affordable Homes Act, which requires that municipalities permit housing as-of-right at a density of at least four units per acre. Those towns also have Inclusionary Zoning requirements for the construction of affordable housing, which will apply to these developments as well.

"Today's auction is another example of how the Affordable Homes Act is moving swiftly to cut red tape and deliver results," said Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities Secretary Ed Augustus. "By turning surplus state land into new homes at a range of price points, we're creating more affordable choices for Massachusetts residents while putting parcels back on the local tax rolls."

"This auction was a success on multiple fronts — putting five underutilized state properties back into productive use, unlocking new housing development, and earning Massachusetts nearly $3 million in revenues," said Administration and Finance Secretary Matthew J. Gorzkowicz. "Thank you to the many stakeholders who enabled this auction, and I look forward to the next steps in our State Land for Homes initiative, including seeing these housing projects come to life."

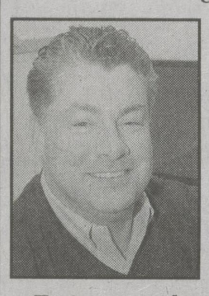
"DCAMM is thrilled with the successful auction of five parcels in different areas of the state, that will now be reactivated with new housing to help address the most pressing issue facing the Commonwealth," said Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance Commissioner Adam Baacke. "This is a major milestone for the Healey Driscoll Administration's State Land for Homes initiative, made possible by the excellent work of JJ Manning and the DCAMM staff. We look forward to continuing the momentum of this critical initiative."

The Healey-Driscoll Administration has made housing a top priority, including the creation of the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities in 2023. Since then, the Administration has initiated a comprehensive approach that includes passage of the $5 billion Affordable Homes Act, implementation of the MBTA Communities Law, creation of the Momentum Fund, the new State Land for Homes initiative to jumpstart housing production on state land, sizable increases in housing tax credits and subsidies and the elimination of renter-paid broker's fees.

As a result, more than 90,000 new homes have been built or are in development since Governor Healey took office.

Advertisement

It's Your Money
by Todd Brisbois



TAXPAYERS WHO MISSED THE APRIL TAX FILING DEADLINE SHOULD FILE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

Taxpayers who missed the April 15 filing deadline should submit their tax return as soon as possible. Those who missed the deadline to file but owe taxes should file timely to avoid penalties and interest.

Requesting an extension allows for additional time to file but not to pay taxes owed. Individuals who owe taxes should file their tax return and pay as soon as they can. Interest and penalties will continue to accrue on the owed taxes until the balance is paid in full.

File and pay now to limit penalties and interest

Even if a taxpayer can't afford to pay immediately the full amount of taxes owed, they should still file a tax return and pay as much as possible. The IRS offers options for taxpayers who need help paying their tax bill.

Taxpayers may qualify for penalty relief if they have filed and paid timely for the past three years and meet other important requirements. For more information, see the Administrative penalty relief page on IRS.gov.

If a refund is owed, consider filing a tax return

There's no penalty for filing after the April 15 deadline if the IRS owes you a tax refund. Taxpayers who choose not to file a return because they don't earn enough to meet the filing requirement may miss out on receiving a refund due to potential refundable tax credits, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit

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Local students named to Dean's List at Holy Cross

WORCESTER — College of the Holy Cross congratulates the students named to the spring 2025 Dean's List for outstanding academic achievement during the spring semester of the 2024-25 academic year.

To qualify, students must pass four or more letter-graded courses with no failing grades during the semester and earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

The following local students made the list:

- **Madison Guy, of Wilmington, Class of 2025**
- **Julia Kane, of Wilmington, Class of 2027**
- **Celia Kulis, of Wilmington, Class of 2026**
- **Delia Conte, of Tewksbury, Class of 2028**
- **Amanda Ogden, of Tewksbury, Class of 2027**
- **Erin Sands, of Tewksbury, Class of 2025**

About Holy Cross:

The College of the Holy Cross, in Worcester, Mass., is among the nation's leading liberal arts institutions. A highly selective, four-year, exclusively undergraduate college of 3,100 students, Holy Cross is renowned for offering a rigorous, personalized education in the Jesuit, Catholic tradition.

Since its founding in 1843, Holy Cross has made a positive impact in society by graduating students who distinguish themselves as thoughtful leaders in business, professional and civic life.

Lions Club Beep Ball Tournament supports adaptive sports

◀ Members of the Tewksbury Fire Department came out to support the Beep Ball exhibition game with Boston Strong and the Boston Renegades on Saturday. Sponsored by the Tewksbury Lions Club, proceeds aid in supporting the adaptive sports club.

▼ Fire Chief Joseph Kearns served as pitcher for the annual Lions Club Beep Ball game on Saturday at Livingston Street. Two vision impaired teams played against the TPFD in a fun exhibition game to raise money for the league.

(Paige Impink photos)

▼ Tewksbury Lions Club members were on hand for the annual Boston Strong/Boston Renegades Beep Ball Tournament at Livingston Street on Saturday.

Local students enroll at Holy Cross

WORCESTER — The College of the Holy Cross congratulates the new Crusaders starting at the College in fall 2025. The following local students will be part of the Class of 2029:

- **Nicholas DiGiovanni of Wilmington**
- **Jonathan Morad of Wilmington**
- **Nicholas Morad of Wilmington**
- **Lorraina Raposa of Wilmington**
- **Maya Sachdev of Tewksbury**

At 837 students, the Class of 2029 includes students from 39 U.S. states and territories and 15 different countries. This incoming class represents one of the most academically accomplished classes in the College's history.

Admission to the class of 2029 was more competitive than ever with applications surpassing 10,000 for the first time in Holy Cross history, a nearly 20% increase over the last two years, and an admit rate of 19%.

The new Crusaders have distinguished themselves through community service, leadership roles, and diverse participation in areas like the arts, music and athletics. They arrived on campus and moved into the residence halls on Wednesday, August 20th, where they were welcomed to Mount St. James by an enthusiastic purple crew of current students, staff, faculty and alumni. Fall classes began on Tuesday, Aug. 26.

"Welcome, Class of 2029!" College President Vincent D. Rougeau told the class during Mass of the Holy Spirit. "I encourage you to embrace this new experience. Lean into the growth it can offer. You are not doing this alone. Look around. Some of the people you will meet in the next few days and months will be your friends for life.

"One of the great things about my job is seeing close friends who met here five, 25, or even 50 years ago return to campus. Connecting with a professor, walking the historic halls of Fenwick or dining in Kimball erases the passage of time. They're flooded with a wave of memories from some of the best moments in their life. For you, making those memories begins today."

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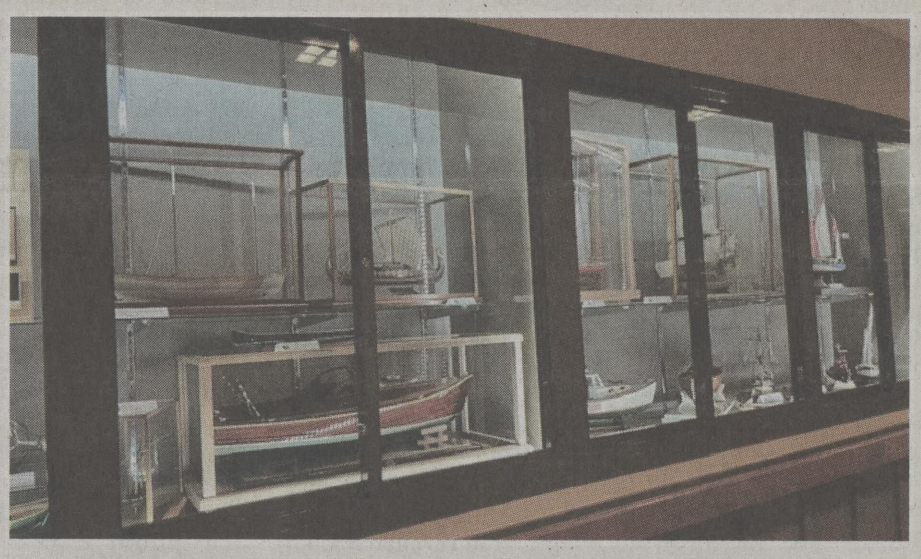

Model ships on display in Wilmington

Get over to the Wilmington Senior Center to check out the Merrimack Valley Ship Model Club's display. The many intricate models will be on display through September.

(Paige Impink photo)

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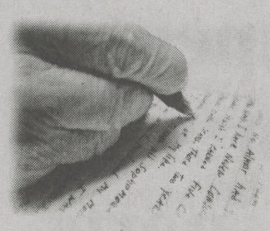
OPINION



Letter to the editor

Public hearing regarding lithium battery storage facility on Thursday, Oct. 10

Dear Tewksbury residents,

As a fellow resident, I encourage you to attend an important public hearing on Thursday, Oct. 9 at 6:30 p.m. at Tewksbury Memorial High School regarding the proposed lithium battery storage facility at 73-75 Hillman St.

To help capture the views of everyone who lives, works, or owns a business in or near Tewksbury, all are invited to participate in this short survey: *https://forms.gle/31M9dzAoBZZx2Arn6*

Your voice matters, and I hope many residents will participate to ensure all perspectives are heard.

Sincerely,
Christine Chesbrough

Upcoming local events

September 18, Tewksbury Community Market, 4 - 7 p.m., Livingston Street Recreation Complex, *www.tewksburymarket.com*. Over 30 vendors, food trucks, farmers, crafts, games and more.

September 18, Strong Hearts, Strong Minds, Strongwater Farm Gala, Vesper Country Club, Tyngsboro. 5:30 p.m. *https://strongwaterfarm.org/gala/*

September 19, 7 - 10 p.m., The Silvertones Swing Band. Tewksbury Senior Center - $10.

September 21, Wilmington Farmer's Market, Swain Green, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Over 20 vendors, food trucks, farmers, crafts, games! *Wilmingtonfarmersmarket.com*

September 27, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Free Community Health Fair, Public Health Museum. Flu shots, talks, free health screenings, giveaways. *Publichealthmuseum.org*

October 5, 1 - 2:30 p.m. Blessing of the Animals, Tewksbury Congregational Church.

October 8, Power of Flowers Spread the Joy Annual Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. *Pofp.org*

October 11, Tewksbury screening of Stonegate, the movie. Public Health Museum, 6:30 p.m. *Publichealthmuseum.org* for tickets $10.

Public Health Museum, **Thursdays and Saturdays**, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., 365 East St. on the campus of Tewksbury Hospital. *Publichealthmuseum.org*

Book Store Next Door, **Saturdays**, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. The Book Store is staffed by volunteers from the Friends of the Wilmington Public Library. All proceeds support library programs. Next to Wilmington Public Library.

Sundays, Lowell Streetcar Museum, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Adults $3, seniors and youth age 3-12 $2, children under 3 are free. Cash only. 25 Shattuck St., Lowell.

Wilmington Town Museum, **Mondays and Tuesdays**, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Harnden Tavern, 430 Salem St. (Route 62), Wilmington

Middlesex Canal Museum, **Saturdays and Sundays**, noon - 4 p.m., 71 Faulkner St., North Billerica

Book Stew Review

'Just Another Missing Person' by Gillian McAllister

By EILEEN MACDOUGALL

This British police procedural opens with mom/detective Julia trying to keep herself together while hiding the guilt of her daughter Genevieve, who has caused the death of the man who tried to rob her.

In the bending and breaking of the rules she knows she must follow to avoid crossing lines into corruption, Julia's marriage and her career are in jeopardy.

And what starts out as a missing person case involving a young teenage girl turns into three missing teenage girls and entangles Emma, a single mother who suspects that her tight-lipped son is involved.

There are the author's usual enjoyable twists, and the audio narrators, including Joanne Froggatt (Anna) of Downton Abbey, do a fine job of creating sympathy for characters who may not be worthy.

Want your opinion heard?

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office@yourtowncrier.com.

All submissions must be accompanied by full name, address, and daytime contact information for verification purposes.
Letters must be e-mailed by noon on Monday in order for consideration the same week's edition.

▲ The Fitchburg State University Police Academy 8th Recruit Officer Course (ROC) graduation ceremony took place on Friday in Weston Auditorium. Nearly all of the graduates have been hired by municipal police departments across Massachusetts. (Courtesy photo)

Bozek, Speller graduate police academy

FITCHBURG — Pride filled Weston Auditorium on the Fitchburg State University campus on Friday, as the university held the graduation of its latest police academy cohort, almost all of whom have been hired by municipal police departments across Massachusetts.

The 8th Recruit Officer Course (ROC) members proudly completed the groundbreaking police program that blends academic and tactical training, allowing graduates to complete both bachelor's and master's degrees, along with full certification to work in municipal police departments in just five years.

The program was developed in collaboration with the Massachusetts Municipal Police Training Commission (MPTC).

Class leader Brody Tapply reminded all his classmates of how far they've come in this journey and everything they've learned throughout this process.

"I want you all to take a moment and reflect on who you were walking onto this campus four years ago," said Tapply. "I want you to remember all of the late night studying, endless exams, and numerous qualifications. In the moments that you thought it would never end, look at us now. I want you to continue to be the best version of yourself not only for you, but for your communities, your departments, and your families. Do not forget to hold onto everything you have learned. Take this mentality, and continue to pursue anything and everything in your future. Always keep yourself accountable, and put your full heart and effort into everything you do."

Tapply told his classmates that there will definitely be hard days as a police officer.

"During those times, remember everything you have put into where you are right now, and why you are who you are," he said. "Without the structure we received as a class, it is impossible to think that we would be where we are today."

The 8th ROC didn't accomplish this journey alone, however.

"The dream, and goal that we have accomplished, would not have been made possible without (Academy) Director (Ola) Wysocki, our drill instructors, physical training staff, and the family and friends joining us today."

Tapply made sure to credit Wysocki for her "continuous devotion to our class, and the entire police program, is wholeheartedly special."

He continued: "Your passion for making sure we become the best versions of ourselves, does not go unnoticed. Day in and day out, you made sure that we stepped into the right direction, and constantly supported us towards our goals. Without your devotion, we would not be who we are today. Thank you for going above and beyond, to guide us, educate us, and move us towards our ultimate goal."

Fitchburg State President Donna Hodge also addressed the graduates and guests.

"This academy is more than a program," Hodge said. "It is a promise. A promise that public higher education and public safety can work hand in hand. A promise that innovation and integrity can meet in the same training ground. A promise that Massachusetts can lead the nation in preparing those who serve and protect.

"And today, we fulfill that promise through you — graduates who have proven yourselves across your undergraduate degrees and the past seventeen weeks of relentless challenge," Hodge said. "You studied. You trained. You endured. You met every test of character, discipline, and resolve. And now you stand ready to take the oath not only as officers, but as guardians."

The president thanked the families in attendance for making sacrifices for their loved ones, and to the chiefs and departments for hiring these new graduates.

"And to our graduates — this is your day," Hodge said. "From this day forward, the responsibility you carry is immense. The authority you hold is profound. And the example you set will help shape not just the safety of our streets, but the trust of our communities, and the strength of our democracy. We are proud to call you graduates of Fitchburg State University. We are grateful for your service. And we are hopeful for the future you will help build. Be safe. Serve with honor. Lead with heart. Let the momentum of this achievement carry you forward into a career of service and distinction. And know that today, and always, you carry the confidence of this university and this Commonwealth."

Wysocki recounted when the 8th ROC began their academy training on May 19, and the successes and setbacks of the ensuing 17 weeks. A weekly tradition for the class was her Friday speech about making "good decisions" over the weekend.

Now, Wysocki is asking each new officer to make good decisions with their time, energy and work.

"The most valuable commodities you have are your time and ability to be kind," she said. "Let me say that again, your most valuable commodities are your time and kindness. Be generous with both. Make time for family and friends, especially when you feel like you have no time. Do not get sucked into living to work, and when you inevitably do, change your priorities. Lead with kindness, whenever tactically feasible. If you want to change the world, start by being the kind of officer you will want for your family.

"Do not worry about the apparent effect you have on the world, be diligent in doing the best you can in all circumstances," she said. "We have given you a firm foundation, now it is up to you to hone your craft of accomplishment, and a feeling of knowing yourselves better than you did 17 weeks ago. Never forget where you come from, and if you do, we are always here to remind you."

University Police Chief Michael Cloutier said the oath these graduates have taken is about more than just enforcing laws; it's a promise to be in service to others and to develop meaningful relationships with their communities.

"Our hope is that each of them will be the person who stops to talk to children in the park, or knows the local business owners by name," Cloutier said. "Because that is where true trust begins, and it's the most powerful tool they will ever have."

State Rep. Michael A. Kushmerek — a two-time Fitchburg State alum — MPTC Director of Training Andrea Nardone, and Fitchburg Mayor Samantha Squailia were also in attendance.

The members of the 8th ROC and the departments that have hired them include Class Leader Brody Tapply of Lunenburg (Lunenburg Police Department), First Squad Leader Adam Bourgault of Fitchburg (Fitchburg Police Department), Joshua DiPersio of Tyngsboro (Chelmsford Police Department), Kyle Dupuis of Hopedale (Hopedale Police Department), Julia Marsell of Holliston (not hired yet), **Colin Bozek of Tewksbury** (not hired yet), Thomas Farr of Princeton (Littleton Police Department), Second Squad Leader Kayla Forbes of Marshfield (Rockland Police Department), Shea Lucontoni of Newburyport (Newburyport Police Department), **Asha Speller of Tewksbury (Tewksbury Police Department)**, Owen Williams of Westminster (Ashburnham Police Department), Shane Bissanti of Franklin (Walpole Police Department), and Christopher Black of Gardner (Gardner Police Department).

CLASS AWARDS:

- Academic Achievement Award - **Julia Marsell**
- Physical Training Achievement Award - **Thomas Farr**
- Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC) Award - **Shane Bissanti**
- Firearms Training ("Top Gun") Award - **Brody Tapply**
- Rifle Training ("Top Gun") Award - **Shea Lucontoni**
- 100 Percent Award - **Brody Tapply**

To learn more about the police program, please visit *https://www.fitchburgstate.edu/academics/programs/police-program-41-concentration-criminal-justice-bs*

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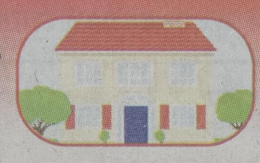
Recipe: Apple Crumble Scones Page B2

Real Estate Transfers Page B3



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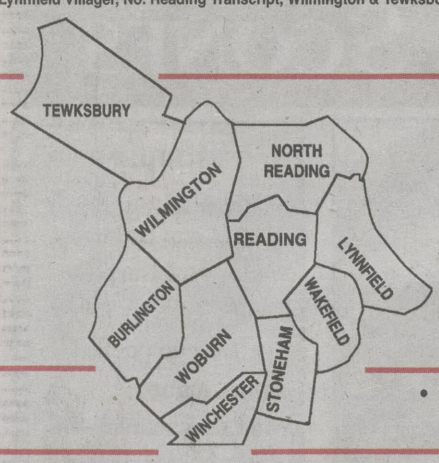

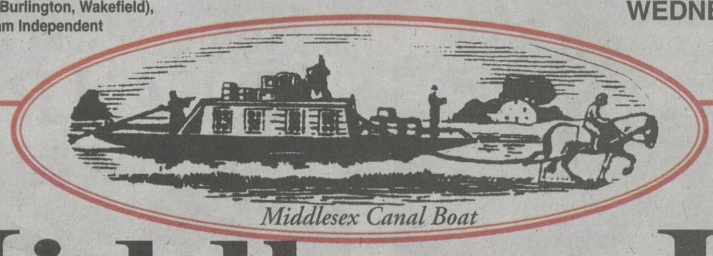

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Winchester and Stoneham lead the way in tackling pension system debts

By PATRICK BLAIS

Riding on a tidal wave of stock market and other investment returns, officials Winchester and Stoneham predict that over the next few years, they will have sufficient revenues to cover all pension obligations for active and future retirees.

According to an annual report released last month by the state's Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission (PERAC), both Middlesex East area communities recorded a 9 percent return on their pensions system investments in 2024 and are amongst a select group of some 20 state and local retirement systems that have funded at least 90 percent of their unfunded pension obligations.

Currently providing an average annual pension benefit of $34,000 to 280 retired municipal workers, the Town of Winchester expects to fully cover its unfunded liability by 2027. With Winchester Retirement Board members hoping to see an annual 7 percent return on its various stock , bond, private-equity and real-estate market investments, the town reported a 9.61 percent return on its portfolio in 2024.

Just $14 million shy of having the funding needed to cover existing pension obligations, Winchester's system assets are currently valued at $186.2 million.

The average pensioner in Winchester is 76-years-old and receives a monthly pension of around $2,800. Besides handling the benefit plans owed to existing retirees, the Retirement Board is also responsible for setting aside enough funding for 399 other active - or still at work - members.

Realizing a 9.15 percent return on its $138.9 million portfolio in 2024, Stoneham's Retirement Board, whose investment strategy is based upon an assumed 6.75 percent rate of return, is set to fully pay off its unfunded pension liability in 2028.

Last spring, the town, which is predicting it owes the local Retirement Board $12.1 million in order to fully fund the pension system, slated $7.3 million towards its outstanding obligations.

Presently, Stoneham's 285 retirees are receiving a typical yearly pension benefit of around $31,700. The average pensioner in the system is around 75 years old, while the community's 314 other "active members" are on average 46-years-old and have been employed by the community for just over 10 years.

Pension system basics

Not to be confused with city and towns' other post employment benefit (OPEB) liabilities, which relate to unfunded obligations retirement systems owe their members in order to cover promised medical, dental, and other post-career benefits, unfunded pension debts revolve around the monthly stipends promised to educators and state and municipal workers.

Technically, municipal workers across the state today cover the bulk of their retirement packages by having a portion of their salary docked for deposit into accounts managed by local, regional, or state retirement boards. Cities and towns are also responsible for making their own pension system contributions, which is generally equivalent to 3-to-5 percent of a community's total annual payroll.

The general idea behind collecting those payments upfront is that retirement boards can invest the savings and over time amass enough revenue to cover the pension and OPEB benefits owed to current and future retirees.

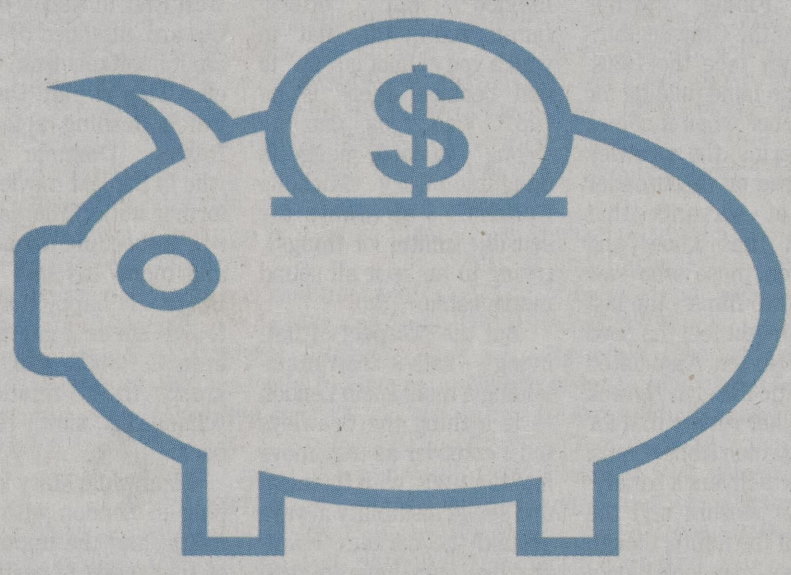
However, for decades after public employees were first offered pension plans, the Commonwealth and most cities and towns not only failed to set aside their portion of promised pension system obligations, they also redirected workers' retirement contributions towards other expenditures and budgetary needs.

As a result, when large numbers of those employees eventually retired, virtually every local and state pension system found itself lacking the needed funding to cover all of its obligations — termed the "unfunded liability".

Per state law, all cities and towns must fully fund their share of employee pensions by the year 2040 and in order to play catch up, most area communities are allocating huge multi-million dollar contributions from the tax levy. Once that debt is paid, cities and towns will just have to stay current with their annual payroll contributions to the pension system accounts.

Under criteria set by state law, most

• PENSION TO B3



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DOWNTON FINALE - This image released by Focus Features shows Laura Carmichael, from left, Harry Hadden-Paton, Elizabeth McGovern, Hugh Bonneville and Michelle Dockery in a scene from "Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale." (Focus Feature via AP)

Movie Reviews & Box Office News

The Crawleys get a loving sendoff in final 'Downton Abbey'

By JOCELYN NOVECK
AP National Writer

"Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale" brings change to the Crawley family as they face the 1930s. There's no hand-holding for the audience when it comes to mastering the Crawley family tree or the broader family of servants that Downton fans know and love. Even those who saw the first two films - the last in 2022 - might feel the need for a refresher. Associated Press critic Jocelyn Noveck writes in her review that for loyal "Downton Abbey" fans, the movie delivers a satisfying bit of closure and the sense that the future, though a bit scary, may look kindly on Downton Abbey as long as Mary is in charge.

Story

Change comes slowly to the Downton Abbey universe and its Crawley family. Just watch Robert Crawley go flat-hunting in London.

Wait, what? FLAT-HUNTING? The Earl of Grantham? Well, yes, and it's the most amusing scene in "Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale" (a self-announcing title if there ever was one).

Just look at proud and starched Robert (Hugh Bonneville), trying to be open-minded but utterly flummoxed by this "flat" in which you cannot go "up" to bed because there is no "up." Well, you can go "along" to bed, suggests daughter Mary (Michelle Dockery — as always the sensible center of things), trying to make it all sound manageable.

But the prospect of flat-living — rather than maintaining a mansion in London — is a thing the Crawleys must consider as they move into the 1930s, with financial and social instability always around the corner. "Families like ours have to keep moving to survive," says Mary, with the weight of Downton Abbey's future itself resting on her shoulders.

A note to those coming in cold to the franchise here: Well, it's going to be quite hard. Writer Julian Fellowes and director Simon Curtis do not engage in hand-holding when it comes to mastering the Crawley family tree or the broader family of servants that Downton fans know and love. Even those who saw the first two films - the last in 2022 - might feel the need for a refresher.

We begin in London's West End, at a show by Noel Coward, attended by Downton inhabitants from all levels. They're all there to watch dashing actor Guy Dexter (Dominic West), who in the last movie asked former butler Thomas Barrow to become his dresser, and more. It's nice to see Barrow is happy now, able to live life as a gay man — even if Robert can't quite grasp their relationship (change is slow, remember).

Meanwhile Mary is shopping in London with sister Edith, and the importance of this scene is perhaps to remind us that the real star of the "Downton" universe, after that stupendous house of course, is the costumes. Mary finds a sleek red satin gown that is quite possibly the most smashing outfit we've seen yet.

But when she puts it on for a society ball, trouble erupts. As the family arrives we learn that Mary's divorce decree has come through — and this means, alas, that she will become a pariah. The newspaper screams of "divorce in high places," and indeed, the ball's hostess (Joely Richardson) actually kicks Mary out of the party because royalty is coming. Mary's concerned parents are outraged — but they stay, and their daughter heads out, quipping that she hopes a taxi will agree to take her.

Soon enough we're back at Downton, and there is one very big difference: no longer does Violet Crawley, aka Maggie Smith, with her inimitable style and those hilarious quips, rule the halls. She died in the last film — and Smith died in 2024. But the film is dedicated to her in more ways than one.

Besides Violet, almost everyone is back, and we have a few new (or newly returning) characters as well. Paul Giamatti is, happily, back from the TV show as Harold, the brother of Cora (Elizabeth McGovern, always a warm presence as Robert's American wife).

Harold arrives from America with some unfortunate news — he's wasted away much of their family fortune. Accompanying him is friend Gus, a handsome and clever type — or so it seems — who has been advising Harold on his finances. Gus (Alessandro Nivola) worms his way into Mary's good graces, and more — but he may not be nearly as clever as he first appears.

Then there's Simon Russell Beale as the pompous Hector, who tries to hold onto local tradition but runs up against Isobel (Penelope Wilton), and a charming Arty Froushan as Noel Coward himself. The playwright is the closest thing in Downton world to a modern celebrity — everyone wants to be with him, no matter station nor gender, and he winds up helping Mary overcome her social shunning.

Nowhere to be seen is dashing Hugh Dancy, who played a film director (besotted with Mary) in the last movie. But the character that director anointed as a screenwriter, Joseph Molesley (Kevin Doyle), is back, and Fellowes must have enjoyed writing this line for him: "In many ways the writers are the stars of cinema."

To be honest, the script veers from clever to extremely sappy, or to filler lines like "I think I'll go get another cup." But kudos for moment a befuddled Robert describes the newfound phenomenon of an apartment building as "a layer cake of strangers."

"Sometimes I feel that the past is a more comfortable place than the future," someone says in a poignant moment. But this final movie will give loyal Downton fans what they want: a satisfying bit of closure and the sense that the future, though a bit scary, may look kindly on Downton Abbey as long as Mary is in charge. And as long as Smith's Violet, imposing in a front-hall portrait, is looking down from above.

"Downton Abbey: The Grand Finale," a Focus Features release, has been rated PG by the Motion Picture Association " for suggestive material, smoking and some thematic elements." Running time: 123 minutes. Two and half stars out of four.

HomeNewsHere RECIPE

APPLE SCONES

SCONE SEASON - These apple butter crumble scones are the ultimate fall bake with a tender scone base, a spiced apple butter layer, and a crumble layer on top.

INGREDIENTS:

Crumble

- 3/4 cup Gold Medal™ All Purpose Flour
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 cup unsalted butter, melted
- 1 pinch kosher salt

Scones

- 2 cups Gold Medal™ All Purpose Flour
- 2 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 2 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 cup unsalted butter (1 stick), frozen
- 1 large egg
- 1/2 cup whole milk or half and half

STEPS

Step 1
Heat oven to 425°F and line a baking sheet with parchment paper; set aside.

Step 2
Combine the 3/4 cup flour, brown sugar, cinnamon, and salt in a mixing bowl, using a fork to whisk it all together. Pour in the melted butter and, using the fork, mix and mash until combined. Remove about 1 cup of the crumble mixture and press firmly into the bottom and slightly up the sides of a bowl or press out onto a plate. Freeze for about 15 minutes. Press the remaining crumble mixture firmly into the bottom and slightly up the sides of the mixing bowl and refrigerate while you make the scone dough.

Step 3
Mix the 2 cups flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt in a mixing bowl. Shred the frozen stick of butter on a box grater and add to the flour mixture. Toss the mixture together using your hands—rubbing some of the butter into the flour mixture so you have some sandy flour bits and larger pieces of shredded butter throughout.

Step 4
In a medium bowl, whisk together the egg and milk. Pour into the butter mixture and gently stir with a rubber spatula until the liquid is incorporated and the dough comes together when pressed firmly (it will be dry and crumbly). Remove the crumble mixture that was in the freezer, break into pieces and add to the dough.

Step 5
Turn the dough out onto a smooth surface dusted with flour. Knead a few times until mixture comes together to form a dough. It should have visible flecks of butter and resemble biscuit dough. Pat the dough into an 8-inch round, about 1/2- to 3/4-inch thick.

Step 6
Spread the apple butter over the top of the dough in an even layer.

Step 7
Then, using a fork, break up the remaining refrigerated crumble mixture and scatter over the top. Cut the scones into 8 equal wedges.

Step 8
Place the cut scones onto the parchment paper-lined baking sheet, leaving an inch or so of space between the scones. Bake about 15 minutes, or until the scones are puffed and the bottoms and crumble topping are golden.

EXPERT TIPS

The key to tender, light scones is making sure the butter is kept cold so it's not melted before it hits the oven. Using frozen butter that's been shredded helps prevent overworking the dough and warming up the butter. Keep your milk and egg cold, too, or even chill your bowl with the dry ingredients, to help ensure the butter stays cold!

RMLD

LEGAL NOTICE

IFB 2025-22

Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30, § 39M, the **Reading Municipal Light Department (RMLD)** intends to contract for and extends an invitation to submit sealed bids for:

STEAM BOILER REPLACEMENT

An Optional Pre-Bid Meeting and Site Visit will be held at **10:00 a.m., on Tuesday, September 23, 2025**, at the RMLD, 230 Ash Street, Reading, MA 01867.

The RMLD will receive sealed bids until **11:00 a.m., Wednesday, October 8, 2025**, at 230 Ash Street, Reading, Massachusetts, 01867. Bids will then be opened and read aloud publicly in the RMLD Spurr/AV Room. Bids received after the time of announced opening will not be accepted.

Bid documents and bid forms may be obtained via email request to Barbara Mulvey, Operational Assistant, at bmulvey@rmld.com. For questions or further information, please contact Barbara Mulvey at 781-942-6430. Note: This is a Prevailing Wage project.

Each bid must be accompanied by a certified or cashier's check payable to the RMLD for a sum not less than 5% of the total amount of the bid. In lieu of a check, a bid bond may be submitted in an amount not less than 5% of the total amount of the bid, unless otherwise stated. The bond must be from a corporate surety licensed to do business in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, conditioned that the bidder will pay the RMLD, as liquidated damages, the amount specified in the bond unless the bidder enters into a contract in accordance with the bid. If the bidder fails to enter into the contract or furnish any required bonds, insurance documents, or other required documents within ten (10) days from the date on which the bidder is notified that the bid has been accepted, the amount of the check or bid bond shall be forfeited to the RMLD.

The RMLD reserves the right to reject any and all bids, including and without limitation the right to reject any or all non-responsive, unbalanced or conditional bids, and to reject any bid if the RMLD believes that it would not be in the best interest of the RMLD to make the award to that bidder. RMLD also reserves the right to waive any minor informalities not involving price, time or changes to the work.

No agreement shall be valid or binding unless duly executed via contract or other writing signed by an authorized representative of the RMLD.

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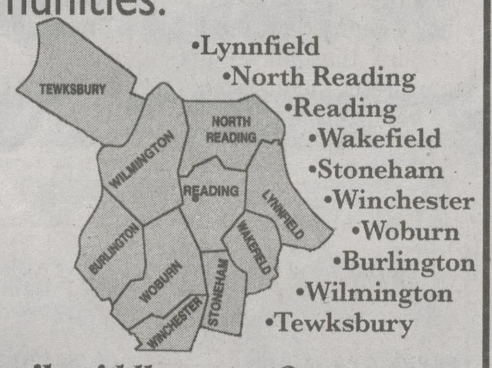

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• Real Estate Transfers •

BURLINGTON

59 Center St #307 was sold to Poulos, James and Poulos, Kanella by Keenan Ann Patricia Est and Judkins, Ann P for $277,200 on 08/25/25

20 Hilltop Dr was sold to Chan, Jason and Chen, Judy C for $685,000 on 08/26/25

27 Keans Rd was sold to Richards, Connor S and Richards, Stephanie by Speicher, Daniel S and Reese, Rhonda L for $820,000 on 08/27/25

9 Knollwood Ct #9 was sold to Jeanette Even Ft and Even, Jeanette by Barbara R Koren T and Koren, Barbara R for $925,000 on 08/27/25

12 Murray Ave #18 was sold to Upadhyay, Dhruvkumar and Mehta, Kreena by Dong, Xiyang for $875,000 on 08/29/25

15 Princeton Rd was sold to Meroth, Sundie L by Bhatia, Prithipal and Bhatia, Jaswinder K for $815,000 on 08/29/25

14 Sandy Brook Rd was sold to Remy, Daphney by Opendoor Property J LLC for $750,000 on 08/28/25

5 Shady Lane Dr was sold to Cdg Investments LLC by Carberry, Charlotte M for $650,000 on 08/27/25

15 Treetop Ct #15 was sold to Musselman Ft Of 2023 and Musselman, Barbara J by Felsa Satlow T and Satlow, Felsa for $937,000 on 08/25/25

10 Wall St was sold to 2-10 Wall St Owner LLC by Auburn-Oxford T and Gutierriez Jr, Arthur J for $10,500,000 on 08/25/25

2 Wall St was sold to 2-10 Wall St Owner LLC by Auburn-Oxford T and Gutierriez Jr, Arthur J for $10,500,000 on 08/25/25

LYNNFIELD

36 Greenwood Rd was sold to Palumbo, Alexandra R and Palumbo, Nicholas K by Defilippo Jr, Gerald and Defilippo, Stephanie D for $750,000 on 08/25/25

35 Homestead Rd was sold to Rkaco LLC by Andrew P Hocking Sr Irt and Hocking Jr, Andrew P for $650,000 on 08/26/25

410 Lowell St was sold to Rauseo, David M and Rauseo, Beth R by Rauseo, Frank J and Rauseo, David M for $584,111 on 08/29/25

909 Main St was sold to Couture, Jordan and Grzybowski, Fay-Valerie by Sheehan, Amanda M and Sheehan, Ryan C for $850,930 on 08/28/25

29 Stillman Rd was sold to Sheehan, Ryan C and Sheehan, Amanda M by 29 Stillman Rd Rt and Burnham, Allan W for $1,000,000 on 08/29/25

38 Wildewood Dr was sold to Ronald J Torlone 2019 T and Torlone, Nancy A by Ng, Chee Y and Ng, Frances for $1,400,000 on 08/28/25

NORTH READING

175 Central St was sold to Vacca, Craig and Vacca, Mei by Goldberg, Jane G and Goldberg, Molly M for $901,000 on 08/26/25

16 Cranberry Meadow Way was sold to Douglas, Rory and Cohen, Liana by Jamieson Development LLC for $1,899,000 on 08/28/25

2 Cranberry Meadow Way was sold to Patel, Mayank and Patel, Twinkle by Jamieson Development LLC for $2,199,000 on 08/28/25

4 Demetri Ln was sold to Demetri Brothers Ma LLC by Demetri, Michael C for $610,000 on 08/29/25

109 Main St was sold to 109 Main St North Reading by Gao Zhuo LLC for $1,600,000 on 08/26/25

240 Martins Lndg #207 was sold to Great Life LLC by Fudge, David S and Fudge, Sandra J for $699,000 on 08/26/25

240 Martins Lndg #405 was sold to Vozzella, Frank and Vozzella, Mary by Mccarthy, Maureen W for $560,000 on 08/28/25

300 Martins Lndg #212 was sold to Kwon, Han S and Kwon, Soon A by Pulte Hm Of New Eng LLC for $515,000 on 08/27/25

300 Martins Lndg #105 was sold to Montalvo, Sonia H by Pulte Hm Of New Eng LLC for $251,800 on 08/27/25

9 Shasta Dr was sold to Collard, Catherine and Collard, Scott D by Budny 3rd, Alexander E and Budny, Maureen for $1,810,000 on 08/28/25

READING

36 Abigail Way #4003 was sold to Barnes, Lori A and Barnes, Kenneth L by Felts Ft and Popken, Jeannine for $505,000 on 08/29/25

9 Abigail Way #4005 was sold to Jang, Dongman and Yoon, Ah Y by Larossa, Maria K for $263,876 on 08/28/25

57 Augustus Ct #1013 was sold to Butt Ft and Butt, Warren D by Kotzuba, James and Kotzuba, Nancy for $669,000 on 08/27/25

16 Border Rd was sold to Wu, Wing T and Pandey, Aayush by Hassan, Syed M and Anwar, Kanwal for $1,090,000 on 08/29/25

9 Brentwood Dr was sold to Scippa, Peter R by Mehta, Vineet and Arloro-Mehta, Julie for $880,000 on 08/29/25

51 Colburn Rd was sold to Pellegrino, Christalee and Pellegrino, Domenic by Garrity Michael J Est and Garrity, Patricia R for $500,000 on 08/27/25

15 Fairmount Rd was sold to Kenney, Kathleen P and Kenney, Joseph by Twiss Ft and Twiss, Gennifer T for $672,000 on 08/27/25

486 Franklin St was sold to Dobrusin, Colby A and Shine, Bridget M by Chang, Siu L for $659,000 on 08/29/25

609 Gazebo Cir #609 was sold to Westenberg, Andreea by Walsh, Richard J and Walsh, Nancy A for $587,000 on 08/29/25

150 Grove St was sold to Mgfnf LLC by Richey Ft Of 2013 and Richey, Susan L for $610,000 on 08/25/25

39 Taylor Dr #1002 was sold to Duffy, Thomas J and Duffy, Claudina by Johnson Woods Realty Cor for $785,000 on 08/28/25

22 Union St #3 was sold to Siagel, Casey A by Theodoridis, Stephen S and Flaherty, Kathleen E for $415,000 on 08/28/25

STONEHAM

137 Franklin St #206 was sold to Ercolini, Tracie by Dibenedetto Rt and Dibenedetto, Elizabeth for $480,000 on 08/26/25

236 Hancock St was sold to Ashraf, Faryal and Rashid, Abdurrehman by Granara, James C for $829,000 on 08/28/25

66 Main St #58A was sold to Lela, Dorela and Lela, Roland by Dwyer Jr James R Est and Dwyer-Mcquade, Loretta for $415,000 on 08/26/25

66 Main St #37A was sold to Peng, Kanglun and Li, Li by Stellson LLC for $235,000 on 08/29/25

TEWKSBURY

1243 Andover St was sold to Norris, Elizabeth and Niedel, Bradford by Alfano, Belinda for $1,095,000 on 08/29/25

1026 Chandler St #B was sold to Doherty, Melissa by Silva, Andrew and Silva, Nichole for $740,000 on 08/28/25

9 Davis Rd was sold to Dibiasio, Anthony and Wilson, Jacquelyn by Liss, Corey and Cosimo, Thomas L for $685,000 on 08/27/25

109 Maryland Rd was sold to Delgado, Jessica by Theodore S Fahey LLC for $850,000 on 08/26/25

5 Oakland Ave was sold to Pasqual, Michael E by Sanborn, Dana E and Sanborn, Elda P for $660,000 on 08/29/25

15 Pinewood Rd was sold to New England Hm Buyers LLC by Touchette, Megan A for $455,000 on 08/29/25

144 South St was sold to Patil, Dipali S by Stack Keiko Kuroda Est and Stack, Ken E for $480,000 on 08/25/25

25 Vernon St was sold to Barbo, Thomas and Barbo, Emma by 25 Vernon Street LLC for $820,000 on 08/28/25

Wakefield

49-A Chestnut St #1 was sold to Nugent, Katelyn by Sauder, Stephanie and Simone Jr, Nicholas J for $760,000 on 08/29/25

23 Grafton St was sold to Emmens, Jack and Paskerian, Rebecca L by Cyr, Kathleen T for $855,000 on 08/29/25

7 Hanson St was sold to Phatak, Sharvari and Swan, Chaitanya by Coscia, Lisa A for $700,000 on 08/28/25

20 Lawrence St #20 was sold to Olanoff, Dinah by J-Marg Lawrence Rt and Piscatelli, David T for $899,900 on 08/28/25

234 Water St #301 was sold to Kruppa, Damon by Ba, Mamadou for $420,000 on 08/29/25

WILMINGTON

7 Clark St was sold to Smith, Colin by Curtis, Pauline A for $712,000 on 08/29/25

1 Eleanor Dr was sold to Fedyk, Rachel and Fedyk, William by Paris, Ross J and Paris, Leela L for $1,350,000 on 08/28/25

203 Lowell St #106 was sold to Rizzo, Anna S and Shum, David by 203 Lowell St Owner LLC for $619,000 on 08/27/25

Ogunquit Rd was sold to Bell Point LLC by Camiel, Irving S for $12,900 on 08/26/25

171 Taft Rd was sold to Cobuccio, Joseph by Pisari Jr, Michael A and Pisari, Deborah A for $861,000 on 08/26/25

WINCHESTER

107 Cambridge St was sold to Kosinski, Shane M and Sheehy, Kathleen M by 107 Cam St Winchester LL for $2,350,000 on 08/29/25

12 Olde Lyme Rd was sold to Delaney, Matthew J and Delaney, Anne M by Tinmouth, Leigh C and Tinmouth, Taylor for $2,500,000 on 08/27/25

171 Swanton St #64 was sold to Craig, William and Craig, Anna by Zhang, Haosheng and Zhang, Su for $825,000 on 08/29/25

29 Vine St #7 was sold to Chen, Peitong by Damyanov, Georgi and Dimova, Juliana for $720,000 on 08/26/25

17 Wagon Wheel Rd was sold to Cirnigliaro, David and Shimada-Cirnigliaro, Keik by Li, Jubei and Chen, Yahong for $2,218,500 on 08/29/25

70 Woodside Rd was sold to Huang, Jennifer and Huang, James by James Butt Ft and Butt, Warren D for $1,200,000 on 08/27/25

WOBURN

108 Arlington Rd was sold to Banker, Aaron by Zhong, Xiaozhen and Yang, Liyan for $660,000 on 08/28/25

74 Beach St #6-9 was sold to Francis, James and Francis, Katarina by Angelli, Nicolette C for $335,000 on 08/29/25

2 Inwood Dr #2001 was sold to Ruiz, Daniel by Lecaroz, Michael E for $630,000 on 08/29/25

5 Madison St was sold to Dodiva Inc by Delia 2022 T and Delia, Paul P for $550,000 on 08/27/25

960 Main St #B was sold to Palmacci, Stephen and Palmacci, Marisa by Gharpure, Kaustubh M and Behera, Swetalina for $790,000 on 08/26/25

12 Mason Way #12 was sold to Pham, Hoang M and Park, Sophia J by Pulte Hm Of New Eng LLC for $1,274,999 on 08/29/25

25 Merrimac St #25 was sold to Silva, Charles P by Silva, Jessica for $550,000 on 08/28/25

14 Michaels Grn #14 was sold to Carbone Mg Nt and Carbone 3rd, Peter by Lynn Marie Milich Lt and Milich, Lynn M for $660,000 on 08/28/25

31 Montvale Ave #8 was sold to Mardirossian, Viken and Mardirossian, Annie by Arora, Pankaj and Garg, Roopam for $365,000 on 08/29/25

461 Place Ln #461 was sold to Yermolayev, Andrey and Yermolayeva, Natalya by Esposito, Ronald R and Esposito, Shauna L for $465,000 on 08/27/25

102 Prospect St #102 was sold to Li, Chenfeng by Kalina, Stephanie for $512,000 on 08/27/25

19 Revere Rd was sold to Caccavelli, Courtney A and Gard, Sean P by Kakis Ft and Walker, Susan for $620,000 on 08/29/25

10 Russell Ct was sold to 10 Russell Court LLC by Roderick, Melissa M and Roderick, Erick D for $1,400,000 on 08/27/25

119 Russell St was sold to Jepson, Robert A by Oldham, Karen E for $600,000 on 08/28/25

6 Stratton Dr #403 was sold to Rodrigues, Jessica J by Pulte Hm Of New Eng LLC for $265,600 on 08/25/25

• PENSION FROM B1

municipal employees and teachers are considered as "vested" in the pension system after 10 years of service and become eligible to collect a monthly living stipend at 60 years of age. The majority of public employees can work past age 60 in order to maximize their monthly pension benefit by accruing additional years of service, but public safety personnel like police and firefighters must retire by age 55.

Currently, municipal workers are required to set contribute at least 9 percent of their annual salary towards their pension benefit and those who earn more than $30,000 a year are contributing 11 percent. Teachers also contribute 11 percent of their salary towards pension system benefits that are managed by a state entity.

In order to be eligible for the maximum monthly pension benefit, which is equivalent to 80 percent of their top five earnings years, municipal workers generally need to accrue nearly 40 years of service.

PERAC is the state agency charged with making sure that all of the state's retirement systems are being properly managed and adhering to funding mandates and other state regulations related to the operation of public pension systems.

According to PERAC Executive Director Bill Keefe, thanks to the country's red-hot stock and real-estate markets, the 104 local, regional, and state retirement systems in Massachusetts realized nearly double-digit returns on their investments last year.

"Investment returns were strong again in 2024 with a composite return of 9.6 percent and 98 percent of boards meeting their actuarially assumed rate of return. Twenty boards are now funded at 90 percent or better and 70 are at 70 percent or better," O'Keefe explained in an executive summary of PERAC's annual report on pension system funding levels.

To be fully funded after 2030

In the wake of 2007's subprime mortgage crisis and the subsequent Great Recession in the years to follow, a number of communities in the Middlesex East's coverage area opted to push out their pension system funding schedules in order to absorb huge stock market and other investment portfolio losses.

Other communities have over the years pushed out their funding schedules closer to the state's 2040 deadline in order to meet other operating and capital budget priorities.

As a result, many cities and towns across the state now don't expect to fully fund their pension system obligations until 2030 and beyond. Communities that meet that timing criteria include:

Town of Reading

Reading's Retirement Board, which last year received a $9.8 million payment from the town to cover the community's pension system liabilities, is currently on pace to fully meet its obligations in 2031.

Reading is providing an average annual pension benefit of $36,900 to 384 retired municipal workers, who are on average aged 74.

With Reading Retirement Board members hoping to see an annual 6.75 percent return on its various stock , bond, private-equity and real-estate market investments, the town reported a 9.78 percent return on its portfolio in 2024.

Some $53.1 million shy of having the funding needed to cover existing pension obligations, Reading's system assets are currently valued at $205.1 million.

Besides handling the benefit plans owed to existing retirees, the Retirement Board is also responsible for setting aside enough funding for 366 other active members who have on average been employed for at least 11.4 years.

Wakefield

Realizing a 9.61 percent return on its $181.9 million portfolio in 2024, Wakefield's Retirement Board, whose investment strategy is based upon an assumed 7.4 percent rate of return, is set to fully pay off its unfunded pension liability in 2036.

Last spring, the town, which has forecasted it still owes the local Retirement Board $61.4 million in order to fully fund the pension system, slated $8.5 million towards those obligations.

Presently, Wakefield's 365 retirees are receiving a typical yearly pension benefit of around $36,000. The average pensioner in the system is around 74 years old, while the community's 494 active members are on average 48-years-old and have been employed by the community for 11.7 years.

Woburn

Woburn's Retirement Board, which last year received a $11.6 million payment from the city to cover the community's pension system liabilities, is currently on pace to fully meet its obligations in 2038.

Woburn is providing an average annual pension benefit of $36,400 to 501 retired municipal workers, who are on average aged 73.

With Woburn Retirement Board members hoping to see an annual 7.25 percent return on its various stock , bond, private-equity and real-estate market investments, the town reported a 9.47 percent return on its portfolio in 2024.

Some $101.8 million shy of having the funding needed to cover existing pension obligations, Woburn system assets are currently valued at $202.6 million.

Besides handling the benefit plans owed to existing retirees, the Retirement Board is also responsible for setting aside enough funding for 585 other active members who have on average been employed for at least 11 years. The average active retirement system worker is currently 48-years-old in Woburn.

Tewksbury, Wilmington, and Burlington

Unlike many of their neighbors, officials in Tewksbury, Wilmington, and Burlington don't manage their own retirement systems and instead have their workforces enrolled in the Middlesex Country Retirement System.

With thousands of active and retired members in the system from dozens of communities and regional government entities, the Middlesex Country Retirement System estimates its unfunded pension liabiity at more than $1.6 billion.

With each community and system member making varying contributions to those obligations, some $177.3 million was allocated last year towards the debt, which board members say should be paid off fully by 2036.

With 6,607 existing retirees in the system, the typical post-career member is 73-years-old and receives an annual $31,900 pension. There are also some 9,603 active members, who are on average 47-years-old and have been employed for about 10 years.

The Middlesex County Retirement System's current investment assets are valued at $2.3 billion.

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Tewksbury Police Log

Lawrence man busted for alleged drug trafficking

Monday, September 8

9:36 a.m. - Caller reported a landscaper has been sitting in his vehicle for a half an hour at Paulie's Place. Caller was concerned because she found this behavior suspicious. Police sent. They confirmed it was the landscaping company for Paulie's Place.

1:50 p.m. - Manager reported there were two parties outside trying to sell tickets to a basketball game and he was already asked once to leave at Market Basket North. Caller reported it was two black males, six feet tall, one wearing gray Nike sweatshirt and the other was wearing a black shirt. Police sent. They reported kids were gone on arrival.

5:44 p.m. - Alarm company reported a commercial burglar alarm from Trahan School. Police sent. They reported a key holder on scene. A confirmed breaking and entering. Officer filed a report.

7:18 p.m. - Caller reported an erratic driver on Main Street heading north. Caller reported the vehicle pulled into parking lot and left the area. Police sent. They located the vehicle. They spoke with the homeowner and reported no sign of impairment.

Tuesday, September 9

7:19 p.m. - Caller reported an erratic driver at Hobart's Country Store. Caller crossed into Wilmington.

8:30 p.m. - Caller reported a party hit his vehicle with a club at Motel 6. Caller followed the party into the Motel 6. Caller described the party as short, small build, green jacket, and a ball cap. Police sent. Officer filed a report.

10:34 p.m. - Call from a concerned party for a male possibly sleeping in the corner of the lot of Dunkin'. Police sent. They reported the male was laying in the parking lot here. This was a male struggling with homelessness and declined services.

Wednesday, September 10

8:42 a.m. - Some people trespassed from Market Basket North. Police sent. Office filed a report.

11:09 am - A 911 caller reported a shoplifter was being combative at Market Basket North. Male ran from the store heading behind Clark Road. Male described as Asian wearing a red, plaid shirt and shorts. Police sent. Officer filed a report. Male party may have left in a vehicle.

1:56 p.m. - Some threats were made at the bus stop near Radcliffe Road. Officer sent and filed a report.

3:51 p.m. - Detective out with suspicious activity at Extended Stay America. Candido Figueroa, 49, of 24 Montgomery St. in Lawrence, was arrested and charged with trafficking 100 grams or more of heroin/ morphine/ opium/ fentanyl, arrestee furnish to law enforcement false ID information, and five warrants.

Thursday, September 11

11:11 a.m. - Caller reported someone was driving erratically and passing illegally at Rogers Street and Whipple Road. Police sent. Vehicle were gone on arrival.

12:35 p.m. - Detective reported a vehicle had been driving around the area of Carter Street and Cart Path Road all morning. Police sent. Units checked the area, but the vehicle was gone on arrival.

12:48 p.m. - Caller stated an elderly driver driving real slow and almost off the road in front of her at Clark Road and Main Street. Police sent. The vehicle was gone on arrival. Female party was spoken to and she was fine.

3:34 p.m. - Caller reported when her daughter went into the bathroom male party was inside at Starbucks. Male described as a white male about 5'8" with brown hair wearing a gray sweatshirt and black pants. Male was currently on the grass pacing back and forth. Police sent. Officer filed a report. Misunderstanding, as male thought it was a unisex bathroom.

4:43 p.m. - A 911 caller reported she woke up with no pants on and was concerned due dissociative identity disorder at East Street. Male roommate was stating his door was broken and something was stolen by the caller. Police sent and officer filed a report.

6:47 p.m. - A 911 caller reported she heard a male child yelling "help me" at Livingston Street Park. Caller stated it came from the woods near the cornfield. Police sent. They spoke to state police. They would have to dispatch a cruiser in order to call out airbag. Officer filed a report.

Friday, September 12

9:08 a.m. - Caller stated person was banging on their door and was banging around in their home at Archstone Avenue. Caller stated he called management and they were evicted and were angry. Male party was banging on people's doors and threaded property management during a second call. Person who was out of control had his work van towed last night by property management for parking violation. Police sent. Officer spoke to parties. Civil issue. No threats made. Officer filed a report.

10:20 a.m. - Caller stated there was a car parked the wrong way in the entrance near the dumpster at Burger King. Male party had no shirt on. Manager stated he doesn't care if he stayed there just wanted him to adjust the car so he didn't get hit. Manager did ask to move vehicle and the male party yelled at him. Police sent. Officer checked the area, but gone on arrival.

1:18 p.m. - Manager called and stated female party had been sleeping in her car in lot and loitering at McDonalds South. Parked near the main door and had been there for two months. Requested a no trespass notice. Police sent. That wasn't the vehicle in question. They would call back if they came back. Officer found the vehicle and spoke to female party, advising her to move on and that she was not welcome on property.

10:53 p.m. - Police reported a suspicious vehicle behind the Hilton Garden Inn. Torres Rodriguez, 32, of 440 Coolidge Ave. in Manchester, New Hampshire, was arrested and charged with a warrant for unlicensed operation.

Saturday, September 13

8:38 a.m. - Caller reported her boyfriend stole a chain from her home some time in May at Benson Road. Caller stated last time she saw him at home was two weeks ago with police department to pick up belongings. Police sent. Officer advised the caller that this was a civil matter. Advice given.

Sunday, September 14

5:58 a.m. - The caller saw two people on her ring camera standing around her vehicle at Tenth Street. One of them was bald, no further description. Police sent. One of the homeowner's wooden steps was accidentally damaged during the property inspection. Homeowner notified.

9:34 a.m. - Caller stated there was vehicle parked on the grass near dumpsters and she found that suspicious at the Soccer Fields. Police sent. Officer checked th area. Nothing suspicious. There was a soccer tournament yesterday, and Waltham was one of the games. The car was registered.

Wilmington Police Log

Local resident expresses issue with Doordash driver

Friday, Sept. 5:

5:07 p.m.: A red 2001 Kawasaki Nomad skidded out on Shawsheen Avenue, injuring the motorcyclist. The motorcyclist was taken to Lahey Medical.

6:13 p.m.: A caller on Shawsheen Avenue reported a Doordash driver began to pull into her driveway before driving around in circles, and almost drove into a cranberry bog, before pulling out again onto Rt. 38. Later, when the vehicle returned, the driver stood outside her door, despite the caller requesting a door drop. The Doordash driver was found to be OK and not under the influence by police, and the caller reported there appeared to be no damage to her property.

9:34 p.m.: A black 2024 Kawasaki EX500 crashed on the I-93 overpass on Concord Street. Injuries were reported, and the motorcyclist was transported by the fire department.

Saturday, Sept. 6:

5:30 p.m.: A black 2019 Honda Civic and a gray 2013 BMW 335XI were involved in a motor vehicle accident on Main Street, with a vehicle rear-ending the vehicle of the caller who reported before taking off. No injuries were reported, and police notified state police of the situation.

8:15 p.m.: A black 2013 Chevy Silverado was reported as stolen from 30 Mystic Avenue; this followed a caller on Shawsheen Avenue reported witnessing it swerving all over the road, and knocking over a mailbox, before police engaged it in a chase all over Wilmington, with the vehicle last being spotted by Lowell police.

Sunday, Sept. 7:

8:20 a.m.: An employee at McKinnon's on Lowell Street reported finding a bag of jewelry in the parking lot. Police took the jewelry for safekeeping.

Monday, Sept. 8:

4:01 p.m.: A person was hit by a tractor trailer truck near Pacific Packaging on Industrial Way. The fire department transported the person hit.

5:00 p.m.: A gray 2021 Mercedes GLA250 and a red 2013 Hyundai Elantra were involved in a minor motor vehicle accident on Middlesex Avenue.

11:38 p.m.: A man at Mayflower Detox on Middlesex Avenue reported that the facility staff was harassing him. The staff no longer wished for him to stay, and the man left with his belongings in a Lyft.

Tuesday, Sept. 9:

8:28 a.m.: A white 2010 Toyota Tundra and a gray 2023 Subaru Impreza were involved in a hit-and-run accident near the Shell gas station on Main Street, with the caller following the fleeing vehicle. Police met the vehicles at Woodland Road for paperwork exchange.

9:07 a.m.: A blue 2016 Ram 2500 and a gray 2017 Nissan Sentra were involved in a motor vehicle accident near the MPG memorial arena on Main Street. No airbags were deployed, and no injuries were reported.

7:48 p.m.: Jonathan Wise of 8 Algonquin Road, in Danvers, was issued a summons for operating an uninsured motor vehicle, operating an unregistered motor vehicle, and not having a registration in possession. This followed a stop of his gray 2019 Honda CR-V near Sonny's Mobile on the run on Lowell Street.

Wednesday, Sept. 10:

8:01 a.m.: A caller at the Dunkin Donuts on Concord Street reported a man yelling at her because she got too close to his vehicle; however, soon after the woman called back stating the man left.

1:08 p.m.: An employee at the Milestone group home on High Street reported a missing juvenile had been seen in Boston that day on Mass Avenue near Boylston Street, with this information being forwarded to Boston police.

4:43 p.m.: A gray 2019 Ram 1500CL and a black 2020 Subaru Legacy were involved in a motor vehicle accident on Adams Street. Airbags were deployed, but no injuries were reported. Police assisted with paperwork exchange.

Thursday, Sept. 11:

4:33 p.m.: A caller on Concord Street reported that someone threw a rock through his window sometime after he had arrived at work at 8 a.m. that day. No camera footage of the incident was available, and the caller believed it was not malicious.

4:47 p.m.: A red 2014 Ford F150 and a gray 2022 Ford Escape were involved in a motor vehicle accident on Salem Street.

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Local residents to participate in annual Jimmy Fund Walk presented by Hyundai

WILMINGTON — 11 residents from Wilmington and 17 residents from Tewksbury will participate in the 2025 Jimmy Fund Walk presented by Hyundai on Sunday, October 5.

Wilmington: Melissa Lucas, Kelli Pertler, Ayla Pertler, Andrew Amendola, Gianna Amendola, Marco Lucas, Cathy Beers, Caitlin Breen, António Lucas, Bhashwati Sarmalkar, and one other Wilmington resident, along with thousands of other walkers, will participate in the iconic annual event that will unite the community to raise funds to support all forms of adult and pediatric care and research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

Tewksbury: Arianna Raso, Karen Raso, Marc Raso, Brianna Andella, Jen Lightfoot, Ann Slagle, Ashley Paine, Derek Paine, Theodore Paine, Meredith Hansen and seven other Tewksbury residents, along with thousands of other walkers, will participate in the iconic annual event that will unite the community to raise funds to support all forms of adult and pediatric care and research at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The Jimmy Fund Walk will aim to raise $9.5 million this year in the effort to prevent, treat, and defy cancer.

The Jimmy Fund Walk will aim to raise $9.5 million this year in the effort to prevent, treat, and defy cancer.

"For 36 years, the Jimmy Fund Walk has been a cornerstone of support for lifesaving cancer research and patient care at Dana-Farber," said Caitlin Fink, vice president of The Jimmy Fund. "Every participant contributes directly to advancing lifesaving research and critically important cancer care. Walk Day is more than just an event — it's a celebration of hope and the shared commitment of the Jimmy Fund community."

One Walk, Four Distances, For All Cancers

The Jimmy Fund Walk takes place along the famed Boston Marathon® course, and participants have the flexibility to choose from four distance options: 5K walk (from Dana-Farber's Longwood Medical Campus); 10K walk (from Newton); Half Marathon walk (from Wellesley); and Marathon walk (from Hopkinton). Walkers who prefer to participate virtually can complete their chosen distance from any location.

Whatever route participants choose, they will be supported by hundreds of volunteers and treated to refueling stations with refreshments throughout the course. Walkers will be motivated by poster-sized photographs of Walk Heroes that appear along the course as inspiration. All routes will conclude at the Jimmy Fund Walk Finish Line Powered by Schneider Electric at Boston Common, by the corner of Charles and Beacon Street. Finish line activities will include a celebration with food, entertainment, and more.

To register for the Walk *(#JimmyFundWalk)* or to support a walker, visit *www.JimmyFundWalk.org* or call 866-531-9255. Registrants can enter the promo code NEWS for $5 off the registration fee. All registered walkers will receive a bib, medal, and a Jimmy Fund Walk T-shirt. You can also sign up to volunteer on Walk day.

About the Jimmy Fund

The Jimmy Fund, established in Boston in 1948, is comprised of community-based fundraising events and other programs that, solely and directly, benefit Dana-Farber Cancer Institute's lifesaving mission to provide compassionate patient care and groundbreaking cancer research for children and adults. The Jimmy Fund is an official charity of the Boston Red Sox, the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association, the Pan-Mass Challenge, and the Variety Children's Charity of New England. Since 1948, the generosity of millions of people has helped Dana-Farber save countless lives and reduce the burden of cancer for patients and families worldwide. Follow the Jimmy Fund on Facebook, X, and Instagram: *@TheJimmyFund.*

About Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute is one of the world's leading centers of cancer research and treatment. Dana-Farber's mission is to reduce the burden of cancer through scientific inquiry, clinical care, education, community engagement, and advocacy. Dana-Farber is a federally designated Comprehensive Cancer Center and a teaching affiliate of Harvard Medical School.

Dana-Farber provides the latest treatments in cancer for adults through Dana-Farber Brigham Cancer Center and for children through Dana-Farber/Boston Children's Cancer and Blood Disorders Center. Dana-Farber is the only hospital nationwide with a top 5 U.S. News & World Report Best Cancer Hospital ranking in both adult and pediatric care.

As a global leader in oncology, Dana-Farber is dedicated to a unique and equal balance between cancer research and care, translating the results of discovery into new treatments for patients locally and around the world, offering more than 1,100 clinical trials.

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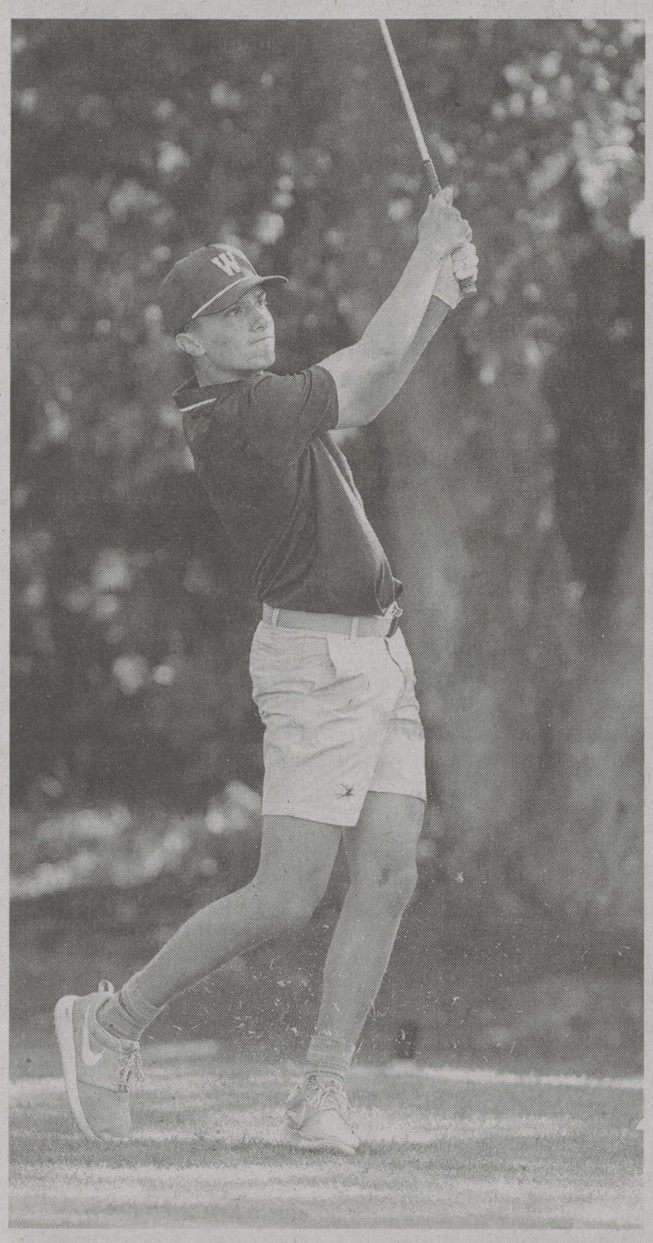
Wilmington SPORTS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

▼ Wilmington's Will Poyant follows his tee shot on the second hole Tuesday at Hillview Golf Course in North Reading. Wilmington edged Ipswich, 37-35.
(Credit Image: James Thomas)



Ryan Archer of Wilmington plays an iron into No. 2 during Tuesday's golf match against Ipswich at Hillview Golf Course in North Reading. Wilmington posted a 37-35 victory.
(Credit Image: James Thomas)

Wilmington High golfers off to fast start

Wildcats start campaign with victories over Winchester, Ipswich

By DOUG HASTINGS
Sports Correspondent
sports@yourtowncrier.com

The Wilmington High golf team is off to a terrific start to the 2025 season.

After several seasons of struggling to find their way into the win column at all, the Wildcats are off to a 2-1 start to the campaign with victories over Ipswich and Winchester.

Against Ipswich, WHS junior Nate Anderson shot a two-over-par 38 to lead the Wildcats to a hard fought 37-35 non-league win over the Tigers.

Senior Matt Driscoll and freshman Nick Poeck pulled Wilmington ahead in the last foursome of the match.

Junior Ryan Archer improved to 3-0 on the year with his victory.

Wilmington's other victory against Winchester was by a 36.5 to 35.5 margin at Winchester Country Club.

Senior Roman Synnott and junior Nate Anderson won their matches, 6-3.

Archer added a 5-4 victory.

Senior Matt Driscoll buried a clutch putt to tie the 9th hole securing the victory for the Wildcats.

Against Arlington, the Wildcats lost 37.5 to 34.5.

Isaac Tavares, Derek Perault, and Matt Driscoll picked up their first wins of the year while Archer was also a winner.

◀ Roman Synnott of Wilmington studies the line on No. 1 during Tuesday's match against Ipswich at Hillview Golf Course. Wilmington won, 37-35.
(Credit Image: James Thomas)

Wilmington High Soccer Roundup:

Wildcat boys working hard

By DOUG HASTINGS
Sports Correspondent
sports@yourtowncrier.com

While the Wilmington High boys soccer hasn't won yet this season, the Wildcats have certainly been competitive after their first six matches of the fall campaign.

WHS battled Watertown to a 1-1 tie while losing one-goal games to Stoneham (3-2) and Lawrence (2-1). The Wildcats did suffer lopsided defeats against Tewksbury, Winchester and Arlington.

"We are on the right path towards growth and success," said new coach John Bavota.

Goal scorers for Wilmington have been sophomore Kosta Chronopoulos, junior Mohamed Ihklef and freshman Davio DiCenso.

Senior Nick Spinosa and sophomore Declan Mulcahy have been handling the goalkeeping duties for the Wildcats.

Other standout players have been senior Joe Glaser and Chronopoulos.

"They have proven to be our strongest, most consistent players on the field," Bavota said.

The coach has also been pleased with senior defender Jon Mehr.

"His physical abilities on defense help to maintain a strong back line," Bavota added.

Wilmington's game with Stoneham was an exciting one.

The Spartans led 1-0 and 2-1 before WHS rallied both times to tie the score.

Ikhlef tied the score with 6:46 remaining in the contest, but Stoneham was awarded a questionable penalty kick less than two minutes later.

Senior Owen Fitzpatrick nearly scored in the game, hitting a head ball off of the crossbar and Bijon Pourshadi had a great chance early in the second half foiled by a sliding Stoneham goalie.

Senior Daniel D'Augusta and Tyler Hally also played well on offense along with Mulcahy and Glaser.

Defensively, the 'Cats were led by Mehr, Jack Cronin, George Papageorgiou and Fitzpatrick.

▲ Tewksbury's John Pacheco breaks free from Wilmington's Konstantine Chronopoulos during Saturday's game at Tewksbury High School. Tewksbury blanked Wilmington, 7-0. (Credit Image: James Thomas)

After hosting Lexington on Monday, Wilmington (0-5-1) visits Melrose on Friday at 5 p.m.

GIRLS OFF TO SOLID START

The Wilmington High girls soccer team has a 2-1-1 record after its first four matches this fall.

After a 1-0 loss to Winchester to open the season, the Wildcats are 2-0-1 in their last three matches with victories over Stoneham and Watertown and a 1-1 draw with Arlington.

WHS played at Lexington on Monday and visits Melrose on Friday night.

Against Watertown, Wilmington won by a 2-0 score.

The Wildcats carried most of the play in the first half and were able to get on the scoreboard after Nyla Chimwanda intercepted a pass and shot the ball from outside the box at the 27-minute mark.

Wilmington was able to add to the lead in the second half when Lindsay Broussard found Mave White inside the box. White was able to receive and blast a shot past the goalkeeper.

Against Arlington, the first half of the game became a battle of the midfield although Arlington's speed seemed to create more scoring opportunities. The half ended scoreless.

The second half was a mirror image of the first with Arlington's speed creating discomfort for the backs of the Wildcats. Off of a broken play, Wilmington broke through and scored off of a scramble in

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WHS girls soccer starts strong

SOCCER FROM PAGE B5

the box.

Arlington got the equalizer with one minute left in the game.

The Wildcats beat Stoneham, 3-0.

For the first 30 minutes of the game, both teams battled in the middle of the field. Some of those battles created scoring opportunities.

Wilmington got on the scoreboard after Charlotte Forcina picked up a rebound and tapped it into the back of the net.

The first half ended with the Wildcats ahead by one.

The second half was more of the same with Wilmington carrying the play a bit more.

Within 15 minutes, Ali Mc Elligott found Cate MacDonald open in the box. MacDonald was able to place the ball on the far side of the goalkeeper to increase the lead.

The final goal came at the 25-minute mark of the second half when McElligott was able to elude a defender and placed a powerful shot past the goalkeeper.

In the season opener, Wilmington lost to a solid Winchester team, 1-0.

The game was played on a hot day and both team's endurance got tested.

For the Wildcats, most of the energy had to be spent defending against the potent offense of Winchester.

The first half ended 0-0 with Winchester controlling the ball and executing a lot of offense. On the other side, the defensive discipline of Wilmington managed to keep the half scoreless.

Winchester scored the match's only goal in the second half.

Wilmington captains this season include MacDonald, McElligott, Erin McCarthy and sophomore Leah Doucette.

Thomas Murphy of Wilmington wins a header under pressure from Tewksbury's Charles Holden during Saturday's game at Tewksbury High School.
(Credit Image: James Thomas)

Grand opening for Wildcats

In Cavanaugh's coaching debut, Wilmington High football cruises

By SCOTT OLSZEWSKI
Sports Correspondent
sports@yourtowncrier.com

The Wilmington High football team opened the 2025 season with a dominating 35-6 win at Essex Tech Friday night in Danvers.

The Wildcats controlled the play early as they led 21-0 and held the Hawks to 60 total yards in the first half.

Gus Lambert ran for 108 yards on 12 carries and a touchdown with teammate Julian Martins running for two touchdowns in the win.

"The team played well tonight on both sides of the line," said new Wilmington coach Joe Cavanaugh. "The guys up front worked hard and were able to push people around creating holes and the running backs did a great job finding the holes. We went into the game wanting to run the ball. The kids have really bought into the new system of ground and pound, which is what we have been preaching."

The WHS defense started off strong, holding the Hawks to 19 yards in their first possession. Facing a fourth-and-two on their own 43, the Hawks decided to go for it, but the Wildcats forced a fumble, recovering at the Hawk 43.

The Wildcats opened their first drive with seven straight running plays for 39 yards. On third-and-10 from the Hawks 18, WHS quarterback Mark Holleran dropped back to pass and connected with a wide open Pat DeLucia at the eight, who walked in untouched for a touchdown.

Cam Pereira kicked the extra point to give Wilmington a 7-0 lead with 3:49 left in the first quarter.

After the Wildcat defense forced the Hawks to punt from their own 36, Wilmington opened its next drive from their own 30. The Wildcats needed just six plays to add to their lead.

Lambert carried four times for 52 yards including a carry from the Hawks 49 where he ran left down the sidelines breaking two tackles for a gain of 38 yards. Ayden Bellevy ended the drive, rolling left from seven yards out on second down for a touchdown.

Pereira kicked the extra point with 7:49 left in the half to give the Wildcats a 14-0 lead.

The Wilmington defense got the ball back and WHS started at midfield.

Lambert opened the drive with a carry up the middle, breaking two tackles to the Hawk 29. Three plays later, from the 15, Holleran carried up the middle and almost scored as he was taken down at the one. Lambert ended the drive, running up the middle for the score. Pereira kicked the extra point with 3:28 left in the half to give Wilmington a 21-0 lead.

The 'Cats continued to control the play to open the second half.

Early in the drive, the Wildcats were faced with a third-and-eight from their own 17.

Holleran dropped back to pass and threw down field to Pereira, who made a great play coming back to catch the ball with a defender on him at the 50. Four plays later, Martins took the handoff running down the left sideline, broke two tackles, and scored on a 24-yard touchdown run. The extra point gave Wilmington a 28-0 lead with 8:01 left in the third.

Essex finally got on the board with 2:23 left in the third as quarterback Jacoby Casinelli-Tarasulk carried right for a touchdown. The extra point was blocked by Camden Gray as Wilmington led 28-6.

The Wildcats were forced to punt on their next possession as the Hawks started from their own 22.

Essex decided to go for it on fourth-and-one from their own 31.

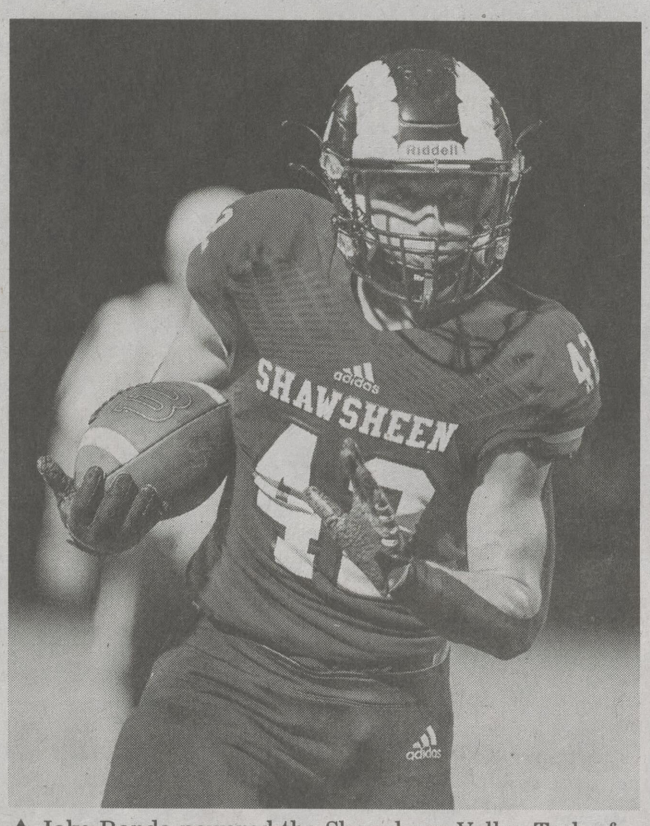
Casinelli-Tarasulk dropped back to pass, but WHS linebacker Timmy Watson plowed through the line and came up with a sack at the 21.

After a 10-yard carry by Bellevy, Martin rolled right untouched for a touchdown. Pereira finished the day going 5 for 5 on extra points for the 35-6 final.

Wilmington next plays at Saugus Friday night.

The Shawsheen Valley Tech Rams charged onto the field Friday night in Billerica to opens their season against Bedford. Shawsheen started the year strong with a 20–13 win over the Buccaneers.
(Credit Image: James Thomas)

Shawsheen football off to 2-0 start



▲ Jake Banda powered the Shawsheen Valley Tech offense Friday night in Billerica, rushing for 259 yards and three touchdowns as the Rams held off Bedford, 20–13. (Credit Image: James Thomas)

By DOUG HASTINGS
Sports Correspondent
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After three championship seasons guided by quarterback Sid Tildsley, the Shawsheen Tech football team showed a different attack in its season opener against Bedford.

Led by senior captain Jake Banda of Wilmington, the Rams won a close battle with the Buccaneers, 20-13, at Cassidy Field in Billerica.

Shawsheen trailed 13-7 at halftime, but outscored Bedford 13-0 in the second half.

Senior Adam Caruso of Billerica was at quarterback for the Rams, but Banda was the story of the night.

Shawsheen had the ball to start the second half and drove 66 yards in 10 plays to take the lead for good.

Banda started the drive with a 26-yard burst before Shawsheen converted twice on third-and-long, the first when senior captain Dyllon Pratt of Billerica drew a pass interference penalty on a third-and-nine play before Pratt did it again, drawing another flag on third-and-seven from the 21-yard line.

Banda took care of the rest, carrying three straight times, the third for a 2-yard touchdown with 5:34 left in the third quarter.

Junior Andrew Santo of Wilmington's extra point made it 14-13.

Bedford punted its first possession of the second half, its only punt of the game, and the Rams scored again, driving 73 yards in seven plays and scoring on a 19-yard run by Banda with 11:51 to go.

Santo's extra point hit the right post and missed, leaving the Rams up 20-13.

Bedford had two great chances to tie or win the game.

The Bucs drove 55 yards to the Shawsheen 5-yard line, but a huge defensive stand by the Rams kept Bedford out of the end zone.

Senior James Tildsley of Billerica buried Bedford Lawrence Andrade for a 5-yard loss on first down before a delay of game penalty and an incomplete pass led to a third-and-goal from the 15. Sophomore Cristiano Apholz, a Bedford resident, then intercepted a third-down heave by quarterback Sylar Pimentel, who chucked it up under heavy pressure.

The Bucs recovered a Shawsheen fumble with 7:59 left and a 26-yard reception by senior Mekhi Volcy gave Bedford a first down at the Ram 18-yard line, but two incomplete passes on third and fourth down from the Shawsheen 12-yard line turned the ball over on downs with 4:31 remaining.

Banda pounded out two first downs to put the game away.

Bedford took a 7-0 lead in the first quarter on a 25-yard touchdown pass to Nicholas Brecher.

Shawsheen tied it on a 2-yard run by Banda with 4:13 to go in the quarter.

Two big penalties, a chop block and an unsportsmanlike conduct call, helped Shawsheen's drive.

Bedford took a 13-7 lead with 10:17 left in the half when Volcy caught a 16-yard pass from Pimentel.

In Game 2, Shawsheen blasted Lynnfield, 41-6.

The Rams led 14-0 after one quarter and 34-0 at halftime before a quick second half with running time on the clock.

Banda led the offense with three rushing touchdowns while Dyllon Pratt and Nathan Smith had scoring receptions.

Senior quarterback Adam Caruso was 7 for 7 passing for 134 yards and two scores.

Wilmington High Roundup:

Cross country teams split with Woburn

By DOUG HASTINGS
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The Wilmington High boys and girls cross country teams had their first dual meet last week against Woburn at Woburn's 3 mile course at Horn Pond.

The girls fell by a score of 25-30 as Woburn took the first three places.

The Wildcats were led by junior Katelyn LaPointe, who ran a personal best time of 21:42.0 to place 4th. She was followed by Cayley Israelson (22:17.0 - 5th), Bella Zaya (22:35.0 - 6th), Tess Sullivan (23:04.0 - 7th) and 8th grader Zoe Moses-Chen (23:24.0 - 8th).

The boys won by a score of 27-32 in a great team effort.

The Wildcats were led by senior captain Gavin Dong with a time of 16:33.0 in third place. He was followed by freshman Cooper Hunt (16:56.0 - 4th), Jake Cronin (17:24.0 - 5th), David Dynan (17:57.0 - 7th) and Matt Lawler (18:20.0 - 8th).

The girls are now 0-1 on the season while the boys are 1-0.

FIELD HOCKEY

Led by senior captains Leah Murphy, Leah Langone and Grace Johnson, the Wilmington High field hockey team is off to a decent start to the season with a record of 1-2-1 after its first four games.

Wilmington lost lopsided games to state powers Watertown (7-0) and Winchester (6-0), but fared well against Arlington and Stoneham.

WHS tied Stoneham, 0-0, and defeated Arlington by a 3-0 score.

In the win over the Spy Ponders, sophomore Rita Bishop had two goals, assisted by Emma Allard, and Allard had the other goal.

Junior Emma Tarin earned the shutout in net with four saves.

Vivien Savoie is the other senior on the Wilmington roster.

WHS had two road games this week facing Lexington on Tuesday and Melrose on Thursday.

VOLLEYBALL

After five matches this season, the Wilmington High volleyball team is off to an 0-5 start, but the Wildcats have competed well.

Wilmington took Stoneham to five sets before a 3-2 loss and dropped a 3-1 decision against Arlington.

Other matches for WHS included games with Winchester, Bedford and Saugus.

Senior Kaleigh Quinn has led the way for Wilmington offensively and senior Annika Held has led the team in blocks.

Senior Madelyn Oatis has been the team's top server while defensively, sophomore Shanna White has led the way.

Junior Liz Kulevich has led the team in assists.

Wilmington plays Lexington and Melrose this week, hosting Melrose on Friday at 5:30 p.m.

Wilmington players (back, from left) Brendan Cyr and Mathew Fogg and (front) Brayden Warford and Zachary Stroud celebrate a goal.
(Photo courtesy of Michael Stroud)

Youth Hockey:

Bantam 1's start season strong

WILMINGTON, MA — The Wilmington Youth Hockey Bantam 1 team hit the ice for the 2025-2026 season with a promising start, posting a 2-1 record in their opening trio of games.

The season opener saw Wilmington face off against Winthrop, resulting in a 7-3 loss.

Despite the scoreline, Wilmington showed strong effort and flashes of offensive potential. Down 3-0 late in the first period, Wilmington found a spark when Doherty buried a crisp feed from right winger Mason King on the back door with just 44 seconds remaining.

The goal cut the deficit to 3-1 and gave Wilmington life heading into the intermission.

However, Winthrop stormed back with three unanswered goals in the second, building a commanding 6-1 lead.

Despite the gap, Doherty wasn't done. He struck again late in the second, once again off a setup from King, narrowing the margin to 6-2.

Early in the third period, Doherty appeared to complete the hat trick, again courtesy of a sharp pass from King, but both referees were out of position and missed the puck crossing the goal line. The missed call sparked frustration from the Wilmington bench but play continued.

Wilmington center Zach Stroud added a highlight reel tally midway through the third, faking from behind the net and wrapping around to tuck the puck past the goalie to make it 6-3.

Winger Matthew Riley was credited with the assist.

Winthrop would go on to add another goal, sealing the 7-3 win.

Defensively, Mark O'Toole provided strong support on the back end, helping limit further damage and contributing in transition. Goaltender Andrew McManus made 24 saves and faced heavy pressure throughout the game, keeping Wilmington within reach.

Forwards Brayden Warford and Johnny Raposo generated several strong scoring opportunities throughout the game, but were denied repeatedly by stellar glove work from Winthrop's netminder.

The team managed to keep pace early on, but Winthrop's speed, skill and puck movement proved too much in the third period.

Wilmington regrouped for a solid 4-2 victory over Melrose in their second game of the season.

The team tightened up defensively and capitalized on scoring opportunities with four different players contributing goals. A fast start and clutch third-period goals helped Wilmington Bantam 2 secure a 4-2 win over Melrose in a hard-fought battle Sunday, powered by early goals from birthday boy Matthew Riley and a dominant third-period shift by Brendan Cyr and Zach Stroud.

Just two minutes into the opening frame, right winger Brooke Boutiette chipped the puck up the boards deep in Wilmington's zone, springing Mason King down the right wing.

King raced past a defender and slid a perfect pass across to Riley, who tapped it in on the back door to give Wilmington a 1-0 lead.

Later in the period, with 5:49 remaining, center Brayden Warford won an offensive zone faceoff cleanly back to defenseman Mason King. King wasted no time unloading a rocket toward the net, where Riley got his stick on it and tipped it top corner for his second goal of the game, extending the lead to 2-0.

Melrose clawed back, scoring late in the second period to tie the game 2-2 with 3:52 left.

Starting the final period on the power play, Wilmington wasted no time swinging momentum. Just 14 seconds in, winger Zach Stroud pressured the Melrose defense into a turnover. Second year defenseman Brendan Cyr jumped on the loose puck and rifled it top shelf to regain the lead 3-2.

On the very same shift, Cyr aggressively held the blue line and fed the puck toward the net. Stroud was there to pounce on the rebound and lit the lamp top shelf, giving Wilmington a 4-2 cushion.

Matthew Riley, celebrating his 13th birthday, had several chances in the third period to complete the hat trick, but was turned away by solid goaltending.

Defensively, Emma Spencer played a strong, aggressive game in front of Evan Jageler, helping shut down Melrose in the final stretch. Offensively, Grayson Lynch, Stella Hardiman, and Matthew Fogg all generated opportunities but couldn't find the back of the net.

In their third game, Wilmington delivered a dominant 5-1 win over Medford, controlling the pace from the opening faceoff. crisp passing, strong forechecking, and solid goaltending helped secure the victory, giving the team its second straight win. A complete team effort on both ends of the ice powered Wilmington Bantam 2 to an impressive 5-1 win over Medford on Sunday at the Loconte Ice Rink, with contributions from all lines and a rock solid performance by goaltender Evan Jageler.

Wilmington opened the scoring in highlight-reel fashion early in the first. Johnny Raposo carried the puck across the offensive zone from faceoff circle to faceoff circle before sliding it back to defenseman Mason King. King crisscrossed with defensman Matthew Fogg and dropped the puck to him. Fogg carried it deep, circled behind the net, and ripped a wrist shot past the goalie to make it 1-0.

Not long after, the duo reversed roles. Fogg took the puck wide from the right faceoff circle and worked his way around the net before threading a pass to Mason King, who was positioned low in the slot. With Brian Doherty screening the goalie perfectly, King sniped it over the glove to give Wilmington a 2-0 lead.

Medford responded late in the first, cutting the lead to 2-1 with just 33 seconds left, but that was as close as they would get.

Goaltender Evan Jageler kept Wilmington in control throughout the second period, turning aside a series of Medford scoring chances with quick glove and feet work.

Wilmington pushed the pace again midway through the second. After Jack Fennelly battled hard and won the puck in the defensive zone, Brian Doherty quickly moved it up to Matthew Riley, who turned on the jets in a footrace to the net and buried a slick backhander at 10:28 to make it 3-1.

The defense continued to shine, with Jaydn Onos, Mason Desmond, Mason King, and Matthew Fogg anchoring the blue line. Fogg broke up a Medford rush, then split two defenders for a rush of his own, but was stopped by the Medford goalie. Zach Stroud, hustling hard on the play, picked up the rebound and tapped it in to extend the lead to 4-1.

The scoring continued when Mason Desmond carried the puck down the right wing, got tied up, and flung the puck on net. Stella Hardiman pounced on the loose puck and got a shot off before Jack Fennelly jumped on the rebound and buried it to make it 5-1 with 5:45 left in the second period.

Jageler stood tall the rest of the way, shutting the door on multiple flurries in front of the net and preserving the win. Brayden Warford contributed with offensive zone disruption and back checking.

The team returns to action this weekend looking to extend their winning streak and continue building on a strong foundation with a game against Jr Hawks in Methuen Saturday at 4:40 p.m.

Lifestyle

Visit BLOCK ISLAND in Rhode Island

▲ The National Hotel greets visitors to Block Island as they arrive via ferry. (Paige Impink photo)

By PAIGE IMPINK

If you're looking for a glorious day trip, look no farther than Rhode Island's Block Island. An accessible alternative to the Vineyard or Nantucket, Block Island is a quieter and less chaotic option with seemingly none of the pretense of its Massachusetts neighbors.

On a recent weekday we took the high-speed ferry from Point Judith in Rhode Island. While cars are permitted on the island via the slower ferry, our aim was to walk and take in the sites. There are many places to rent bikes, golf carts, and electric scooters on the island to get around, which many visitors prefer.

Our goal was to cover as much of the island as possible on foot. What was immediately noticeable was the natural beauty and uncrowded development. The island is seven miles long and three miles wide and is full of nature trails and walkable areas. Much of the island is under conservation protection.

Technically known as the town of New Shoreham, the island is home to approximately 1,400 year-round residents. While the population swells dramatically in the summer, our post-Labor Day visit was quiet and the weather was still warm and sunny.

Our first stop was the Southeast Lighthouse, a Victorian Gothic structure built in 1874. The lighthouse had to be moved back from the eroding cliffs in the early 1990s and is a National Historic Landmark. It is the highest lighthouse in New England due to its position on Mohegan Bluff.

No longer in use, the lighthouse has a small seasonal museum and gift shop.

▲ The magnificent Southeast lighthouse on Mohegan Bluff worked to keep ships from wrecking off of Block Island. (Paige Impink photo)

Our next stop was the 141 step-staircase to the Atlantic from the cliff's edge. The staircase leads to the beach below but is not for the faint of heart: the stairs no longer reach the beach, and ropes are fastened if you want to brave the rocks. However, if time permits and a bit of scrambling is OK, the sandy strip below puts you a world away.

An aspect of visiting Block Island that can add to your visit is the Glass Float project. A yearly installation by glass artist Eben Horton, small blown-glass orbs are hidden around the island. Horton's glass studio puts out over 500 numbered globes each year, placed on trails, in trees, buried in sand, tucked in stone walls, etc.

If one should be so lucky as to discover one of the floats, you are asked to register the find. One find per person, please! We were not so lucky on our visit but are excited to return. Hunting for the floats does force you to look very closely at the island, observing features otherwise overlooked. One can understand why the island is considered so special by those who visit or live there.

There are many stone walls and interpretive signs that indicate the history of the island, self-named by Dutch explorer Adrian Block in 1614. It is said that the first note of the island by a European was made by Giovanni de Verrazzano in 1524. The island became home to 16 families from the Massachusetts colonies in the 1660s.

According to the town website, the original inhabitants of the island were the Manissean tribe, part of the Niantic people. They named the island "Manisses" meaning "Island of the Little God." Artifacts date back thousands of years including stone tools and fishing weights.

After cutting back through some nature trails and finding no floats, we returned to town and enjoyed fish tacos at The Mohegan restaurant. Sitting in the open air dining room facing the harbor was such a delightful pause.

Delicious and ample, we were ready to head off and explore Water Street and the beaches along Corn Neck Road. Though our scheduled ferry ride had us return to the dock sooner than we'd like, we were able to grab some gelato at Aldo's Bakery before the quick trip back to the mainland.

We'll return again and explore even more of Block Island next time. And who knows? Maybe we'll find a glass float as a special souvenir.

▲ The 141 step staircase leads to the Atlantic and the clay cliffs of Mohegan Bluff on Block Island. (Paige Impink photo)

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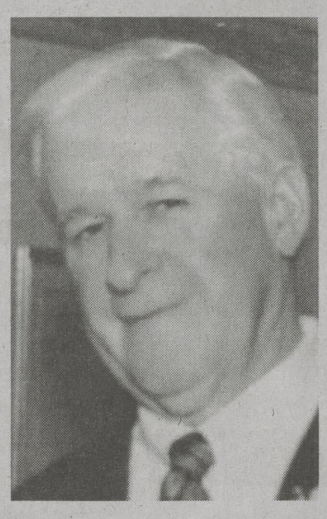
OBITUARIES

William P 'Bill' Cashell

Joined the Navy and toured the Asian seas



William P "Bill" Cashell, a lifelong resident at heart of Woburn, died peacefully on Sunday, Sept. 14, 2025, at the age of 85 after a lengthy illness.

Beloved son of the late Frank and Dorothy "Dottie" (Wells) Cashell. He was the cherished husband of Barbara Dempsey Cashell for 26 years. Beloved father of Mary Cashell Abbott and her husband, William, of Tewksbury, Sean Cashell and his wife, Maureen, of Winchester, Mark Cashell and his wife, Erica, of Tewksbury, and his daughter-in-law, Michelle Turner-Wright of Mesa, AZ.

Predeceased by his first wife, Annabelle Bears Cashell, and their son Brian Joseph Cashell. Dear brother of Kevin Cashell and his wife Joan, Corine Sullivan, Mary Cashell, John Cashell and his wife Susan, all from Woburn.

He was the devoted brother-in-law to Anita Cashell, wife of the late Tom Cashell, also of Woburn. Predeceased by his brothers Francis "Frank" Cashell and his wife Ann, Thomas "Tom" Cashell, and Joseph "Joe" Cashell, all of Woburn.

Adored grandfather of Bill Abbott IV and his wife, Meaghan, Joseph Abbott, Sean Cashell, Michael Cashell, Emily Cashell, Ashley Cashell, Abagail Cashell, and one great-grandson, Liam Abbott.

Also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Bill grew up on Union Street, attended St. Charles, and graduated from Woburn HS in 1957, where he made steadfast friendships that lasted throughout his life.

Bill held his first job at George's Cobbler Shop on Walnut Street at the age of 12, where he worked alongside his brothers, Frank and Kevin, and Bill's good friends Dennis O'Donnell and the late Ted Rose.

Bill saved every penny he could to buy horses. Bill's uncle, George Wells, brought him to auctions to purchase and sell horses. Bill boarded his horses in Wilmington. Bill's favorite horse was named Pony Boy. Bill confided in his daughter that he always wanted to own his own cobbler shop and grow up to be a cowboy!

Every morning before school, Bill and his brother Kevin would walk to Wilmington to feed and groom their horses. They would often carry their .22 rifles and hunt for rabbits along the way. They would bring the rabbits back home to be fixed for dinner. Later in life, Bill raised rabbits to both sell and help feed his family.

Bill joined the Navy at age 17 and toured the Asian Seas on the USS Lexington, an aircraft carrier. Bill was an airplane mechanic and readied the aircraft for the pilots.

He had daily bunk duty, which consisted of reporting to the captain that his cabin mates had made their beds accordingly and packed their clothes neatly in their trunks.

He enjoyed the training, the vocational training, traveling aboard the ship, and the friends he made along the way. He told stories of diving off the ship and swimming in shark-infested waters as smaller boats circled the ship, ready to shoot any shark that got too close to the sailors.

When Bill returned home from the Navy, he met Annabelle at a dance. They were married and started their family. They settled in their family home on Lincoln Street in Stoneham, which Bill enjoyed renovating.

They enjoyed cookouts at the family pool, yearly family vacations to Stinson Lake in New Hampshire and Hampton Beach. Weekend trips to Nippo Lake and Wolfeboro.

Bill attended many Girl Scouts square dances with his daughter, Mary. Bill also shared his love for hunting, fishing, and hiking with his sons at Stinson Lake, and his brother Frank's and Ann's Cottage on the Black Water River in Webster, New Hampshire. Frank and Ann's cottage was the setting for many lifelong memories with his siblings and many weekends with Frank and Ann.

Bill moved his family back to Woburn when his youngest son graduated from high school. They settled on Strawberry Lane.

Bill retired in 2009 at the age of 70. He had a long career working at General Electric in Medford. He was a member of Local 103 and worked on turbine motors and in nuclear power plants all over the US and the world. He would spend several months a year out of the country working alongside his uncle Edward Wells.

Bill traveled the world working for GE, including China, Israel, Egypt, Thailand, the Philippines, Africa, South Korea, South America, and many more countries around the globe, always under heavy guard.

He rode camels and elephants, walked the Great Wall of China, petted tigers and alligators. Bill enjoyed meeting the natives and experiencing their cultures. Bill even played poker with Michael J. Fox on board a plane during one of his many trips to China.

But it was in the US that Bill and a co-worker were working in a bank. Unbeknownst to Bill, the bank was being held up while they were working on engines in the building. Imagine the surprise Bill and his co-worker experienced when they came off the elevator, wearing coveralls and rolling large toolboxes, the pair was greeted and held at gunpoint by police, who mistook them for being the bank robbers.

In later years, Bill reunited with a childhood friend from Union Street and his junior year prom date, Barbara Dempsey. They built a friendship and married. They settled in both Holden and Woburn. They have lived the past two years at Benchmark in Woburn.

During Bill's life, he enjoyed hunting, fishing, hiking, golfing, traveling, and playing cards. He especially loved boxing and would purchase season tickets to the Golden Glove Boxing Tournaments in Lowell. He was a lifelong member of the Woburn Elks, the Woburn City Club, and a member of the Woburn Country Club.

A few other interesting tidbits of Bill's legacy: there probably is not a single hydroelectric or nuclear power plant that he hasn't worked on or been involved with in the United States, well, maybe he missed one or two, but not many more. His crew, from G.E., was crucial in setting up the generators for our troops to start "Operation Desert Sabre" and the Liberation of Kuwait in 1990.

He was also working in Guatemala in 1976 when a 7.5 magnitude earthquake rocked him right out of bed. He was lucky that the hotel building they were staying at did not collapse. Bill had many other adventures and definitely a lot more interesting stories from throughout his life, but his favorites involved his family, his wife and kids, and especially his grand and great-grandchildren.

A Funeral Mass will be celebrated in St. Charles Church, 280 Main Street, Woburn, on Thursday, Sept. 18 at noon. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to call prior to the Mass from 9:30 - 11:45 a.m. in the Lynch-Cantillon Funeral Home, 263 Main Street, Woburn, MA 01801. In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made in Bill's memory to the National Kidney Foundation, 30 East 33rd Street, New York, NY 10016.

Gail A. (Spiro) Protopapas

Helped bring new senior center to Wilmington

Gail A. (Spiro) Protopapas, age 85, a beloved and longtime resident of Wilmington, passed away peacefully on Sept. 13, 2025, surrounded by the warmth and love of her devoted family.

Born in Boston on Aug. 6, 1940, Gail was the cherished daughter of the late Louis and Veronica (Croasdell) Spiro.

She spent her early years in Falmouth and Oak Bluffs on Cape Cod, where her lifelong love of the ocean first took root. As a teenager, she moved to Wakefield and graduated from Wakefield High School, forming friendships and memories she would carry throughout her life.

In 1959, Gail married her soulmate, Donald Protopapas, and together they built a life filled with love, laughter, and deep family bonds. In 1964, they purchased their "forever home" in Wilmington, where they raised their children and became deeply embedded in the fabric of the community.

Family was at the heart of everything Gail did. She was a loving wife, a nurturing mother, and a doting "Gamma" to her two granddaughters. She never missed a school play, sporting event, or special milestone, always showing up with unwavering support, encouragement, and pride. Her grandchildren were the light of her life, and she was a guiding presence in theirs.

Gail's love for her community ran just as deep. A tireless volunteer and civic-minded neighbor, she was a familiar and cherished presence at the Wilmington Senior Center, where she served on the Board of Commissioners and played a key role in the establishment of the new center. She enjoyed participating in trips, exercise classes, and social events, always bringing her vibrant spirit to every gathering.

Her commitment to giving back was remarkable. Gail was a passionate supporter of veterans, generously giving her time to organizations like iPods for Veterans and Local Heroes in Wilmington. She knitted and crocheted countless blankets and hats for veterans and never hesitated to contribute to causes close to her heart.

Gail also gave her time to the local voting booths during town elections and delivered Meals on Wheels, brightening the days of seniors with her cheerful demeanor and kind heart.

She was a member of a local knitting group that made hats, booties, and blankets for the Linus Project that were delivered to premature babies in area hospitals — just one more way she shared her love and talent with those in need.

She was a proud member of the Tewksbury-Wilmington Lodge of Elks, where she volunteered at numerous functions and fundraisers. Gail was also a gifted athlete. She and Don enjoyed many years playing tennis as part of the Wilmington Tennis Ladder, and she played softball with the Sweetheart Plastics women's league for years.

Gail found peace and joy in sailing and being on the ocean with family and friends, and her love of music was infectious. She was the self-proclaimed #1 fan of the Bucket of Blues Band and could often be found cheering them on with a smile and a song in her heart.

Gail will be fondly remembered for her unconditional love, radiant smile, and her unmistakable laugh that could light up any room. Her warmth, kindness and generosity touched countless lives. She had a gift for making others feel seen, heard, and loved, and her legacy of compassion will live on in everyone who had the honor of knowing her.

She was truly one of a kind. A devoted wife, mother, grandmother, friend, neighbor, and community member. Gail A. Protopapas leaves behind a beautiful legacy of love, service, and joy. She will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

Gail was the beloved wife of the late Donald G. Protopapas, devoted mother of Lee Anne Peters and her husband Michael of Park City, MT, John D. Protopapas and his wife Deborah of Newbury, and Charles A. Protopapas of Wilmington.

Loving "Gamma" of Samantha Protopapas and Elizabeth Protopapas. Dear sister of Philip Spiro and his wife Kathy of Martha's Vinyard, James Spiro and his wife Susan of Rhode Island, Lois Robblee of Peabody, and the late Robert Spiro and his wife Nancy Spiro of Falmouth.

Gail is also survived by her nieces, nephews, and friends.

Family and friends are welcome to attend Visiting Hours at the Nichols Funeral Home, 187 Middlesex Ave. (Rt. 62), Wilmington, on Saturday, Sept. 20 from 1 - 3 p.m. followed by a Service to Celebrate Gail's life at 3 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Gail's memory may be made to the MSPCA at Nevins Farm, 400 Broadway, Methuen, MA 01844 or to IPODS for Wounded Veterans, 4 Heather Drive, Wilmington, MA 01887 or online at *ipodsforwoundedveterans.org*

To leave a message of condolence for the family please visit our website at *www.nicholsfuneralhome.com*

Mary Ellen (Langenfeld) Slater

Beloved wife and special grammy

Mary Ellen (Langenfeld) Slater of Tewksbury, passed away peacefully on Friday, Sept. 12, at 82 years of age. She was the beloved wife of the late Paul E. Slater.

Born in Cambridge and raised in Woburn, Mary Ellen was the daughter of the late John B. and Grace A. (McLean) Langenfeld. She graduated from Woburn Memorial High School with the Class of 1961.

Mary Ellen met the love of her life in a most unexpected way. While having car trouble, a family friend introduced her to Paul, who came to lend a hand. From that moment, it was love at first sight. They married in 1967 at St. Anthony's Church in Woburn and made their home in Tewksbury, where together they lovingly raised their two children.

Family traditions were the cornerstone of Mary Ellen's life. Each year, she and Paul took their family camping in the White Mountains and at Bear Brook State Park, building memories that will be cherished for generations.

She enjoyed Sunday car rides, tending to her gardens, and going to the racetrack. A devoted Elvis fan, she filled her home with music, laughter, and the warmth of her kitchen, where she was known as a wonderful cook.

Above all, Mary Ellen's life was centered on her family, who were her greatest joy. Her love, devotion, and kindness will serve as a lasting legacy for all who had the privilege of knowing her.

Cherished mother of Melanie Tangusso, her husband Michael of Wilmington and Paul J. Slater of Tewksbury. Dear sister of Carol Daniels of Derry, NH, Charles Langenfeld, his wife Jacquelyn of Nashua, NH, Andrew Langenfeld of Raymond and Cheryl Leach, her husband Gary of Belmont. Very special grammy to Shelby and Christopher Tangusso of Wilmington.

A Funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Anthony's Church, 851 Main St., Woburn, on Wednesday, Sept. 17 at 10 a.m. Relatives and friends were respectfully invited to call PRIOR to the Mass from 8:30-9:30 a.m. in the Lynch-Cantillon Funeral Home, 263 Main Street, Woburn, MA 01801.

In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made in Mary Ellens memory to the Alzheimer's Association online at *alz.org* or by mail to 320 Nevada St. Suite 201, Newton, MA 02460

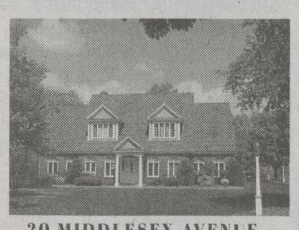
Keeping it clean in Tewksbury

Donovan Conway and Abbie Veno were out advertising the Junior Class Carwash at Town Hall on Saturday. If you missed it, the Tewksbury Memorial High School Class of 2027 will be out in the spring, ready to clean your car!

(Paige Impink photo)

ALL INCLUSIVE OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE

Large second-floor office space in the heart of Wilmington with easy access to The Commuter Rail and minutes from all major highways. This space would be ideal for a lawyer or a tax professional.



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www.homenewshere.com OR masspublicnotices.org/Search.aspx

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF TEWKSBURY BOARD OF APPEALS

Notice is hereby given that the Tewksbury Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on **September 25, 2025, at 6:30 P.M.**, in the Tewksbury Town Hall, 1009 Main Street, Tewksbury, MA 01876, for an application filed by **Jacqueline Millerick** for a Special Permit under Section 8.1.1.C, of theTewksbury Zoning Bylaw, to construct a 2nd story family suite addition with a 10'x11' mudroom as shown on plans filed with the Board.

Said property is located at **905 SOUTH ST** , Assessor's Map 98 , Lot 201 zoned Residence 40 (R40) .

The application may be examined on the Zoning Board of Appeals webpage of the Town of Tewksbury's website at www.tewksbury-ma.gov. Should other accommodations be necessary to view the application, please call the Community Development Office at 978-640-4370. Legal Notice can also be viewed on www.masspublicnotices.org

Nancy Rego, Chair

250959 9/18,25/25

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF TEWKSBURY BOARD OF APPEALS

Notice is hereby given that the Tewksbury Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on **September 25, 2025, at 6:30 P.M.**, in the Tewksbury Town Hall, 1009 Main Street, Tewksbury, MA 01876, for an application filed by **John Berube on behalf of Michael Maher** for a variance under Section 5.3.2, of the Tewksbury Zoning Bylaw, for front setbacks to construct a 26'x36' single-familly dwelling with a 12'x12' open deck as shown on plans filed with the Board.

Said property is located at **300 SOUTH ST ,** Assessor's Map 95 , Lot 41 zoned Residence 40 (R40).

The application may be examined on the Zoning Board of Appeals webpage of the Town of Tewksbury's website at www.tewksbury-ma.gov. Should other accommodations be necessary to view the application, please call the Community Development Office at 978-640-4370. Legal Notice can also be viewed on www.masspublicnotices.org

Nancy Rego, Chair

250939 9/11,18/25

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF TEWKSBURY 1009 MAIN STREET TEWKSBURY MA 01876

DESIGNER RFQ - INVITATION TO PROVIDE DESIGNER QUALIFICATIONS

Comprehensive Facilities Assessment of Tewksbury Public School Buildings

Firms interested in providing Designer Services for the Comprehensive Facilities Assessment of Tewksbury Public School Buildings are invited to submit Qualifications to the Tewksbury Town Manager's Office. The RFS will be available on 9/17/25, through the Town Manager's Office, acting on behalf of the Town. Mr. John Curran will be the contact person for this RFS. If interested, please email jcurran@tewksbury-ma.gov & pmirabella@tewksbury-ma.gov to request the RFS.

Submittal of Qualifications (SOQ) is to be submitted no later than 10/15/25, at 12pm to Mr. John Curran, Town Manager, 1009 Main Street, Tewksbury, MA 01876. SOQs submitted by fax or by electronic mail will not be considered.

The Town of Tewksbury reserves the right to waive any informality in the RFS process, to reject any (and all) SOQs, and to make determinations on Architecture firms deemed "qualified" in its own discretion to be in the best interest of the Project.

250952 9/18/25

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF WILMINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

PUBLIC MEETING

Notice is hereby given that a Public Meeting will be held in the Town Hall Auditorium, 121 Glen Road, Wilmington, MA 01887, on **Wednesday, October 1, 2025, at 6:50 p.m.,** in compliance with provisions of MGL Chapter 131, Section 40, and 310 CMR 10.00 on a Request for Determination of Applicability, filed by Paul Alunni, Town of Wilmington Department of Public Works- Engineering Division, 121 Glen Road, Wilmington, MA 01887, owner & applicant. This filing is to construct a 105' walkway extension from the Yentile Farm Recreational Facility to 175 Lowell Street. The work is within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands as designated by the MA Wetlands Protection Act, MGL Chapter 131, Sect. 40 and 310 CMR 10.00. This project is located at 9 Cross Street (Map 39 Parcel 5) and 175 Lowell Street (Map 48 Parcel 73C), Wilmington, MA 01887. A copy of the application is on file at the Department of Planning & Conservation, Room 6, Wilmington Town Hall, and may be inspected during normal business hours. Jean Marie Cole, Chair

Conservation Commission

250964 10/1/25

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Middlesex Probate and Family Court 10-U Commerce Way Woburn, MA 01801 (781) 865-4000

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Docket No. MI25P3684EA

Estate of: Florence S. Iovine Date of Death: 12/20/2022

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Deborah A. Mayo of Wilmington MA and Denise M. Cassidy of Marshfield MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Deborah A. Mayo of Wilmington MA and Denise M. Cassidy of Marshfield MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/07/2025.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Terri L. Klug Cafazzo, First Justice of this Court.

Date: September 09, 2025

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate

250951 9/18/25

▲ Volunteers at the Veterans BBQ included Pam Lefave, Mark Kratman, Jay Delaney, Diane Joy, and James Mackey.

(Paige Impink photos)

Veterans services host Veterans BBQ at senior center

▲ Town Manager John Curran stopped by the Veterans BBQ last Friday at the senior center. Pictured is Curran with Kathy Sikes and Joe and Donna Gill.

◀ Tewksbury veterans enjoyed a BBQ last week thanks to the generosity of the Veterans Services Officer Lisa Downey and many volunteers and donors. Special thanks to Soldier On, Clear Path, the American Legion, and Richard Frank for their support.

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF WILMINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held in the Town Hall Auditorium, 121 Glen Road, Wilmington, MA 01887, on **Wednesday, October 1, 2025, at 7:10 p.m**. in compliance with the provisions of MGL Chapter 131, Section 40, and 310 CMR 10.00 on a Notice of Intent filed by Mark Krasnyansky, 4 Presidential Way, Wilmington, MA 01887, applicant, and Claire and Robert Sullivan, owners. This filing is for the construction of a single-family dwelling and associated site improvements. This work is within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands as designated by the MA Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. Chapter 131, Sect. 40 and 310 CMR 10.00. The property is located at 158 Lake Street (a portion of 160 Lake Street), Wilmington, MA 01887, and shown on Assessor's Map 22 Parcel 17A. A copy of the application is on file at the Department of Planning and Conservation, Room 6, Wilmington Town Hall, and may be inspected during normal business hours.

Jean Marie Cole, Chair

Conservation Commission

250966 9/18/25

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF WILMINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held in the Town Hall Auditorium, 121 Glen Road, Wilmington, MA 01887, on **Wednesday, October 1, 2025, at 7:15 p.m.** in compliance with the provisions of MGL Chapter 131, Section 40, and 310 CMR 10.00 on a Notice of Intent filed by Mark Krasnyansky, 4 Presidential Way, Wilmington, MA 01887, applicant, and Claire and Robert Sullivan, owners. This filing is for the construction of a single-family dwelling and associated site improvements. This work is within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands as designated by the MA Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. Chapter 131, Sect. 40 and 310 CMR 10.00. The property is located at 160 Lake Street, Wilmington, MA 01887, and shown on Assessor's Map 22 Parcel 17. A copy of the application is on file at the Department of Planning and Conservation, Room 6, Wilmington Town Hall, and may be inspected during normal business hours.

Jean Marie Cole, Chair

Conservation Commission

250967 9/18/25

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF WILMINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

PUBLIC MEETING

Notice is hereby given that a Public Meeting will be held in the Town Hall Auditorium, 121 Glen Road, Wilmington, MA 01887, on **Wednesday, October 1, 2025, at 6:55 p.m.,** in compliance with provisions of MGL Chapter 131, Section 40, and 310 CMR 10.00 on a Request for Determination of Applicability, filed by Jo Ellen Newhouse, Trustee of Newhouse Family Trust, 136 Glen Road, Wilmington, MA 01887, owner & applicant. This filing is for the removal of seven (7) dead trees. This work is within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands as designated by the MA Wetlands Protection Act, MGL Chapter 131, Sect. 40 and 310 CMR 10.00. The property is located at 136 Glen Road, Wilmington, MA 01887 and shown on Assessor's Map 45 Parcel 137A. A copy of the application is on file at the Department of Planning & Conservation, Room 6, Wilmington Town Hall, and may be inspected during normal business hours.

Jean Marie Cole, Chair

Conservation Commission

250963 9/18/25

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF WILMINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held in the Town Hall Auditorium, 121 Glen Road, Wilmington, MA 01887, on **Wednesday, October 1, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.** in compliance with the provisions of MGL Chapter 131, Section 40, and 310 CMR 10.00 on a Notice of Intent filed by Chris Costigan, 30 Houghton Road, Wilmington, MA 01887, applicant and owner. This filing is for the placement of fill, grading, and the construction of a retaining wall in the side yard of an existing single-family dwelling. This work is within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands as designated by the MA Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. Chapter 131, Sect. 40 and 310 CMR 10.00. The property is located at 30 Houghton Road, Wilmington, MA 01887, and shown on Assessor's Map 20 Parcel 22A. A copy of the application is on file at the Department of Planning and Conservation, Room 6, Wilmington Town Hall, and may be inspected during normal business hours.

Jean Marie Cole, Chair

Conservation Commission

250965 9/18/25

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Bristol Probate and Family Court Office of Register Suite 240 40 Broadway Taunton MA 02780

CITATION GIVING NOTICE OF PETITION TO EXPAND THE POWERS OF A GUARDIAN

Docket No. BR22P2023GD

In the Interests of: Yociman A Ayala arias of Tewksbury, MA RESPONDENT Incapacitated Person/ Protected Person

To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by Tewksbury Hospital of Tewksbury, MA in the above captioned matter requesting that the court: Expand the powers of a Guardian of the Respondent

The petition asks the court to make a determination that the powers of the Guardian and/or Conservator should be expanded, modified, or limited since the time of the appointment. The original petition is on file with the court.

You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before 10:00 A.M. on the return date of **10/10/2025.** This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.

WITNESS, Hon. Paul Cronan, First Justice of this Court.

Date: September 03, 2025

Thomas C. Hoye Register of Probate

250948 9/18/25

LEGAL NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS THE TRIAL COURT PROBATE AND FAMILY COURT

Middlesex Probate and Family Court 10-U Commerce Way Woburn, MA 01801 (781) 865-4000

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Docket No. MI25P4778EA

Estate of: May Eugenia Varano Also known as: May E Varano Date of Death: 08/07/2025

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Vito Frank Varano of Wilmington MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Vito Frank Varano of Wilmington MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/07/2025.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Terri L. Klug Cafazzo, First Justice of this Court. Date: September 09, 2025

Tara E. DeCristofaro, Register of Probate

250949 9/18/25

PUBLIC NOTICES

Public notices are published weekly. To place your notice email it to: legals@dailytimesinc.com

▶ Gleaming cars at the British Antique Car Show in Wilmington at the senior center.

▼ Gene Leary and Mary Ann Defeo of Tewksbury enjoy Roy Crane's 1955 Austin-Healey 100 during the British Antique Car Show at the Wilmington Senior Center on Saturday.
(Paige Impink photos)

British Antique Car Show at the Wilmington Senior Center

Agreement reached between comm., educational assistants

SCHOOL FROM PAGE 1

there for student discipline.

Fennelly brought an update that the agreement was reached between the School Committee and the educational assistants' bargaining unit. He expressed his appreciation and gratitude for all of the district's educational assistants and said he was thrilled with the improvements.

He also thanked the school district staff who assisted in the negotiations. The committee voted to approve the contract ratification.

Director of Finance and Administration Paul Ruggiero next explained that the School Committee was required to approve the balances in the high school, middle school, and elementary school activity accounts for the 2025-2026 school year. The committee moved accordingly.

Turner suggested that the Policy Subcommittee review the policy that manages the balances on these accounts.

The last update for the committee surrounded the town hall/school administration building. Thomson reported on the last building committee meeting, where they received time schedules and decided on furniture. He shared that the project was slightly under budget and on schedule for move-in in December.

Ruggiero added that the superintendent of public buildings would seek a price from moving companies for moving furniture from the Arts Center and the Roman House, and there was a lot to do in preparation for December. He also said that the town expected the building to be turned over to them in October and then IT would start their preparation.

Mercaldi wondered what may be done with the Roman House once vacated. Ruggiero suggested that the committee would likely turn it over to the town and then the Building Reuse Committee would determine what would be done with it. Turner proposed that the committee state a desire to keep the land for school purposes.

In subcommittee reports, Ragsdale shared that the special Town Meeting articles had gone before the Finance Committee on Sept. 2 and the Finance Committee voted to recommend approval.

They further discussed the upcoming special Town Meeting. Mercaldi wondered if any of the School Committee members could speak on the school, and Ragsdale answered that they would have to make a comment at a microphone just as other residents would. Fennelly added that they may be invited to answer a particular question if relevant.

They later invited residents to attend the meeting, noting that free childcare was made available, and voting on that day would only be in person at the meeting. They also mentioned the ballot question vote on Sept. 16 with polls open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., for which the town also held early voting.

Turner also reported that WEF counted all of the money they'd donated to the school district in the past ten years and it was an amazing effort.

The committee will meet next on Sept. 24th at 7 p.m.

New interim CEO in place as company attempts to move on from former CEO Arthur T. Demoulas

CEO FROM PAGE 1

Lowell and headquartered in Tewksbury. The company has consistently ranked in the top tier of grocers in the country and is known for its culture of loyalty, good prices, and personal relationship.

Since May of 2025, now former CEO Arthur T. Demoulas has been embroiled in a battle for power as his sisters and certain board members sought his dismissal, citing a lack of financial transparency and no succession plan.

Demoulas was accused of planning a work stoppage to disrupt operations, a charge he and now-released deputies vehemently deny.

Several towns sent letters in support of the embattled former CEO, citing the importance of Market Basket as a community employer and partner. There is no word on any action Demoulas may take moving forward in light of the decision by the board on Sept. 9 to remove him. Demoulas is a shareholder of the company.

INDEPENDENT WRITING POSITION

Part time writing position available
covering local government, feature articles, some evening assignments.
Additional writing assignments possible.
Willing to train.
Some remote coverage available.
E-mail resume, interest, and/or writing sample to:
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VM: 339-927-5029.

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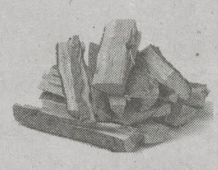

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Town Meeting supportive of new elementary school

MEETING FROM PAGE 1

ing the Wildwood programs split between two schools which looks like sharing math books, a copier, and the gym across the street.

Nicholas Golden added that the new school could enable Wilmington to serve more special education services in town rather than paying to send these students to school across the state. He also mentioned that the current schools have limited safety measures, for example, because they can't install locks in rooms without sprinkler systems.

Another resident suggested that residents can't afford to have their taxes raised, stating that $422 over 30 years will eventually cost an average of $12,000. He asked that they consider postponing the new school and extending the lives of the existing schools.

"I urge you to vote no and preserve the affordability of the Town of Wilmington," he said.

Rob Fasulo pointed out that the Wildwood School Building Committee chose the most expensive option out of the 18 options considered for school addition, renovation, or new building. He also stated that $35 a day was proposed as the annual tax increase — and many residents in the audience said out loud that this was incorrect as it was $35 a month. Fasulo invited residents to ask for something more reasonable from the WSBC.

A motion was eventually made to move the question. Town Moderator Jonathan Eaton explained that he had a duty to let people be heard, so a few more residents got to speak before they voted whether to end discussion and go directly to the vote.

Several residents who commented questioned the alleged oversizing of certain spaces including the gym but also the cafeteria and administrative areas. One resident suggested that the town planned to take land from the nearby property owners at the North Intermediate School site.

▲▶ The WHS auditorium was filled with voters for Town Meeting about the proposed elementary school. (KMG Howlett photos)

"Surely a more appropriately-sized building could be designed to not steal land from our neighbors," she said. "I can't support a plan that's fiscally irresponsible and poorly designed."

Slagle responded to clarify that the town would not be taking any property from abutters.

Frank West stated that he was going to vote no because of the tax increase to residents which he said would make the town less affordable.

The vote to move the question received 1,296 votes in favor and 10 votes against by standing vote, so the question was moved.

Assistant Town Manager Judy O'Connell was granted time to speak, and she explained that the MSBA's standards are "one size fits all," while this plan is Wilmington's design according to their needs. She also asked residents to vote based on the facts.

The vote for the article itself passed with 1,130 votes in favor and 205 against, surpassing the two-thirds majority requirement.

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Town can now move forward with new elementary school after vote

RESULTS FROM PAGE 1

be returned by the 16th.

Residents could also have voted early at the town clerk's office in town hall. Early voting was held during town hall hours leading up to the 16th but ending on Friday the 12th.

The specimen ballot asked residents whether they would allow the town to exempt the amounts required to pay for the construction of a new Wildwood Elementary School to be located at 320 Salem St. from the provisions of Proposition 2.5. This would allow the town to borrow $96 million. The town plans to borrow this money with a fixed rate over 30 years and supplement the borrowing with existing funds and grant funds.

The new Wildwood Elementary School costs in total $173 million. The other money will be moved from the town's capital stabilization fund in the amount of $15 million, and the Massachusetts School Building Authority has granted the town $62 million in funds toward the school.

Wilmington was selected into the MSBA program in 2021 for the Wildwood school after sending in statements of interest for all six elementary schools: the Wildwood, the Boutwell, the Woburn Street, the North Intermediate, the Shawsheen Street, and the West Intermediate schools.

This ballot vote came after the town's special Town Meeting on Sept. 13. At that meeting, residents were asked whether they wanted the town to appropriate the total funds for the school. Town Manager Eric Slagle presented the progress on the school plans and designs so far as well as the backstory that led to these two votes.

Over 1,300 residents came out to vote in person at that meeting. After some shared their reasons to support and some named their reasons to oppose the school vote, the total votes made that day were 1,130 in favor and 205 against. This vote required a two-thirds majority to pass which was met.

The ballot question vote required only a simple majority to pass. With 2,559 votes in favor and 1,571 against in the unofficial count from Tuesday night, the vote passed. The result of these two separate votes from the Sept. 13 special Town Meeting and the Sept. 16 special town election will be that the new elementary school secures funding and therefore moves forward with the MSBA.

The school is projected to be constructed and occupied in the fall of 2028.

Had either vote failed, the town's progress with the MSBA would have been stalled until they could receive MSBA approval on a plan to achieve the two votes. All progress with the MSBA would then have been lost should that plan have failed.